# NICE TEAM MEETING MINUTES

## February 21, 2023

Meeting began at 8:30 a.m.

**Team Members Present**: J. Johnson (NWLS), G. Rae (NWLS), K. Zimmermann (WVLS), M. McLimans (WiLS), M. Clark (WiLS), S. Heskin (Superior), M. Lank-Jones (Hayward), A. Johnson (MCPL), T. Blomberg (Rib Lake), T. Schmidt (Mercer)

**Others Present**: S. Hafemeister (WVLS)

**Team Members Absent:** P. O'connell (Minocqua), Rachel Metzler, (WVLS)

## I. Update on Information Gathering

Melissa McLimans (WiLS) shared that WiLS received 118 responses to the survey.  There was good participation with good representation, with all but 5 libraries participating.  Melissa indicated that survey analysis is still in progress and shared some preliminary results.  There was not a lot of difference in survey responses between NWLS and WVLS. There were some differences in responses depending upon an individual's role (library director / library staff / system staff).

The majority of survey participants are in favor of a shared ILS. Survey responses for preferred ILS platform scenarios were as follows:

> 53% - NWLN & V-Cat will share an ILS platform and collections and take steps towards sharing practices and policies.

> 29% - NWLN & V-Cat form one consortium, with a shared ILS, shared collection, and mutually agreed upon practices and policies.

> 10% NWLN & V-Cat will share an ILS platform with limitations, sharing one instance of an ILS platform but continue to have separate policies and very limited or no shared collections.

> 7% - No change: NWLN & V-Cat continue to have their own ILS platforms and operate independently.

The most common areas of benefit were focused on the patron experience. The most common area of concern were about cost. There was less agreement on other concerns. There will be a full presentation of survey results at the next meeting.

Melissa reported that 49 people signed up for the member library focus groups, and 46 will be able to participate. Three focus groups for member libraries, and one focus group for system staff will meet the week of 2/27/2022. WiLS staff will facilitate, record, and provide transcripts from each focus group.

## II. System Comparisons Document ILS Merger Successes Document

Melody Clark (WiLS) indicated that the leadership in the NICE Team created a system comparisons document entitled NWLS & WVLS ILS System Comparisons. The document includes comparisons between NWLS and WVLS to provide an overview snapshot of the two systems including information about staffing, procedures for cataloging and support, governance, budgets, ILS and related vendors, and electronic resources. Team members were asked to provide suggestions for edits and feedback about additional information that could be included in the document. Katie Zimmermann (WVLS) reminded members we have permission from vendors to share quote information within this group, but team members should consider confidentiality of cost information. Members of the committee shared concerns, comments, and suggestions during the meeting. Any additional comments from the NICE team can be shared with Melody via comments in the document or via email by March 7, 2023.

## III. ILS Merger Cost Comparisons Document

Melody Clark shared a document entitled NWLS & WVLS ILS Merger Costs Narrative. The costs and scenarios listed are meant to be used to help guide the process of the NICE project. The projected and estimated costs are not actual costs and are subject to change. At this point in the project, a cost formula scenario is not being selected. Discussion of various scenarios and options is an important step in the feasibility process and is essential in preparation for next steps at the end of the feasibility study should the two groups determine to move forward. The team discussed possible individual library cost formula scenarios to determine individual library costs. Team members shared concerns, comments, and suggestions during the meeting, and were invited to share any additional comments with Melody via comments in the document or via email by March 7, 2023.

## IV. Standing Item – Reporting of Questions/Status of Replies

No new questions have been submitted via the online form, and none of the team members had any additional questions to share.

## V. Standing Item – Communication Needs

Alexander Johnson (MCPL) suggested that documents be shared prior to the meeting to allow team members to familiarize themselves with the document that will be discussed at the meeting.

## VI. Next Meeting
The next meeting will be March 21, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

Meeting ended at 10:12.

Respectfully submitted,
Susie Hafemeister, Meeting Recorder
Katie Zimmermann, NICE Team member