MERGING CATALOGS IN ALASKA: NAVIGATING SHIFTING BOUNDARIES

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Joint Library Catalog (JLC)
The Joint Library Catalog, a network of 72 public, academic, special, and K-12 libraries that serve 60 percent of Alaska’s population, has conducted three catalog mergers in three years. As new libraries join the consortium, they face changes to OPAC design, lending procedures, and cataloging standards. Their patrons gain access to over 1.7 million titles (4.1 million items) located across the state, available to hold and send, plus reciprocal borrowing privileges.

Bylaws written
- Member Council & workgroup structure
- Cataloging
- Circulation
- Collection Development
- OPAC
- Seals
- Technical Support
- Licensing Organization
- Fiscal Agent
- Member Agreement developed
- Responsibilities of the JLC
- Responsibilities of the Member Library
- Financial Obligations
- Liability and Warranty
- Organization & Governance
- Dispute Resolution

2013 - Anchorage/ Juneau Merger
Joint Library Catalog (Anchorage) libraries shared a catalog since 2000
- Anchorage Museum
- Anchorage Public Library - 5
- UAA/APU Consortium, UAA Homer, UAA Kenai, UAA Kuskokwim, UAA MatSu
- Valdez Consortium Library
- Capital City Libraries (Juneau) shared a catalog since 1999
- Juneau Public Library - 3
- University of Alaska Southeast
- Alaska State Library - 3
- Sealaska Heritage Institute

2014 - MatSu Library Network joins JLC
- Seven public libraries in Matanuska & Susitna Valleys (Big Lake, Palmer, Sutton, Talkeetna, Trapper Creek, Willow, Wasilla)
- MatSu School District - 36
- Developed Kids’ Catalog for elementary schools

2015 - Kenai/Petersburg/Sitka join JLC
- Kenai Community Library
- Petersburg Public Library
- Sitka Kettleson Memorial Library
- Sitka School District - 4
- Mt. Edgecumbe High School
- Implemented Kids’ Catalog for elementary schools and public library juvenile collection (Sitka)

Deduplication Project
JLC Cataloging Workgroup tasked with deduplication
- Completed SirsiDynix workform
- Identified match points
- OCLC, ISBN, ISSN, LCCN, WLN, Other Standard Numbers, Textual
- Defined rules for duplicate validation
- Selected Master Record - hierarchy of options
- Vendor analyzed options selected, suggested adjustments
- Opportunity to change parameters
- Subsequent merges - existing JLC record serves as master

Retrospective Authority Control Project
- Updated names and subject headings
- Migration Cataloger worked through reports
- Global data cleanup
- RDA 33X fields added
- GMD normalization
- Deleted legacy data fields
- Unexpected changes to FAST Headings and GMDs (vendor rolled back)
- Continued by quarterly authority control processing

JLC Vision
The purpose of the Joint Library Catalog is to meet the needs of its Member Libraries for a single online catalog that provides enhanced access to information resources for the residents of the combined service areas. This catalog will enable Joint Library Catalog cardholders to use the combined resources of the participating libraries where licensing and other constraints allow. In addition to providing a broader, more extensive collection of materials and resources, the centralized, shared infrastructure will provide effective services at reduced costs to Member Libraries by achieving economy of scale savings and reduced redundancy.