

## Clarification of SCPL library cards, items and charges

Schenectady County Public Library (SCPL) plans to leave the Joint Automation Project (JA) and the shared Polaris catalog. Many library staff have questions about this and have received questions from patrons; we hope to answer some of those questions here.

### Library Cards

- At the time of SCPL's exit from the Joint Automation Project, patron records with a statistical class of "Schenectady County Public Library" will be provided to SCPL.
- SCPL patron cards will not be removed from Polaris and will continue to work after SCPL leaves the Joint Automation Project; honoring SCPL patron cards is a local policy that each library can determine individually.
- We will create a new library branch and patron code for Schenectady County resident patrons to control access to materials. Each library may determine the level of access Schenectady County resident patrons have to their libraries' materials through the patron and material type loan limit settings.
- We will update the patron registration documentation to reflect how Schenectady County resident patrons should be registered and share it with everyone.
- Since reciprocal borrowing is required within library systems, all Mohawk Valley Library System (MVLS) libraries must provide onsite access to the residents of all other counties served by MVLS. This is one reason why SCPL patron cards will remain in the database and continue to work after SCPL exits Polaris.
- It is unknown how Schenectady County resident patron access to the MVLS OverDrive collection will be affected. However, Schenectady County resident patrons should not have their registered branch changed to enable use of the Southern Adirondack Library System (SALS) OverDrive collection.
- The Polaris ILS will not communicate in any way with SCPL's new ILS. Patron information in the Polaris ILS will remain secure. Patrons may need to have two separate cards depending on how SCPL handles the transition to their new ILS. Any questions about SCPL's new ILS should be directed to SCPL.

### Library Items and Charges

- SCPL items will remain in the catalog and can be checked-in if returned to another MVLS/SALS library. Polaris will route them to SCPL, and they will be returned in the delivery. Eventually, there will be a plan to purge these items.
- We have not yet determined how best to handle non-SCPL items that are returned to SCPL after they have exited Polaris.
- How to handle pre-existing charges (charges for SCPL items on non-SCPL patron accounts and vice versa) is yet to be determined.

If you have questions, please send them to [jawithdrawal@sals.edu](mailto:jawithdrawal@sals.edu).