

# Board packet July 19, 2022: Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement to join Cooperative Computer Services

Friday, July 15, 2022 9:47 AM

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Board packet July 19, 2022: Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement to join Cooperative Computer Services</b>
<b>From</b>	Ryan Livergood
<b>To</b>	libraryboard
<b>Cc</b>	Gina Ornelas; Amy Blanchard; Sandy Beda; Andrea Farr Capizzi
<b>Sent</b>	Friday, July 15, 2022 9:45 AM
<b>Attachments</b>	CCS map.png; CCS Strategic_Plan_2021-2024.pdf; CCS Intergovernmental Agreement.pdf

Good morning,

Our ILS Task Force (Kathie Fifer, Head of Adult Services; Ryan Livergood, Executive Director; Amy Meyer, Head of Tech Services; Cathy Sokley, Head of Circulation) is recommending to the Board that WNPL formally join Cooperative Computer Services, aka CCS. As the Board might recall, our current Integrated Library System (ILS) is called Sierra, which we have with a contract through a company called Innovative. This ILS is very specialized library software that is integral to what we do. From cataloging library materials to checking out books, this software is vital for us to do our jobs. Our current contract with Innovative runs through September of 2023. As I discussed with the Board starting in February of 2022, we need to decide very soon regarding our plans for the future before our current contract with Innovative expires. The Board will recall that we essentially have three options, and one of them isn't really a realistic option in my opinion. Our options are: 1) Status quo, plan no changes and negotiate a new contract with Innovative. 2) Join CCS, which is a cooperative of local libraries that share the same ILS. We were a founding member of CCS but left many years ago to become a standalone library. 3) Do an RFP process for ILS vendors. Explore the marketplace and review all the options (as limited as they might be with all the mergers in the ILS industry). The first option is a very poor option because Innovative would have no competition for our business and they would hold us over the flames regarding pricing. We would have no leverage negotiating a new contract. If we don't go the CCS route, we'll have to go through the RFP process to get the best value for taxpayer dollars. Although this could result in a slight cost savings over time versus the status quo, the ILS market for public libraries has consolidated greatly over the years and we realistically have only two options regarding the companies that provide this kind of specialized software to a public library of our size and sophistication: our current vendor, Innovative, and SirsiDynix. I am a former employee of SirsiDynix and I know the marketplace very well. Going with either company as a standalone library would still cost us over \$100,000 a year. Fortunately, however, it is the recommendation of the ILS Task Force to the Board that WNPL formally join CCS.

As I mentioned to the Board in February, the two major pros in my mind to joining CCS are cost and access to diverse materials. These are huge benefits to both WNPL fiscally and from a service perspective. I am calculating a cost difference of about \$145,000 over five years when comparing between standalone status and CCS. Regarding access to diverse materials, CCS members collect in 27 languages. As a member of CCS, WNPL would be able to provide access to this collection through a shared catalog, versus someone having to go through our ILL process. This would be a huge service for

our patrons. In addition, our patrons would be able to return their checked out library materials at over 28 other library locations across the area. For example, if a WNPL patron works in Evanston, they could return a WNPL book there instead of here, and vice versa. Attached is a map of CCS libraries, but note the map was created by RAILS in 2019 and both Grayslake and Palatine joined CCS after the map was created. I have also attached the current CCS Strategic Plan, and I think the Board will appreciate how the mission and vision of CCS align well with WNPL.

While there are some downsides to joining CCS (e.g., losing autonomy in making some decisions, additional meeting commitments), they are minor compared to the tremendous benefits we would gain by becoming a member. Our ILS task force met with the CCS leadership team to get our concerns addressed and learn more about the transition process. In addition, several members of our staff took field trips to local CCS libraries that recently joined CCS to learn about their experiences. The feedback from CCS member libraries was overwhelmingly positive. After getting our questions answered and evaluating the pros and cons to joining CCS, it is the opinion of our entire ILS Task Force that WNPL should join CCS. Thus, I am asking the Board to adopt an Intergovernmental Agreement for WNPL to join CCS. See the sample IGA attached. I will provide the final, formatted version at Tuesday's meeting.

Thanks,  
Ryan

**Ryan Livergood**  
Executive Director  
Warren-Newport Public Library District  
224 N. O'Plaine Road  
Gurnee, IL 60031  
847-244-5150 ext. 3101  
[rlivergood@wnpl.info](mailto:rlivergood@wnpl.info)