SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY LIBRARY SYSTEM
Automation Committee Meeting
May 21, 2025

DRAFT MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chris Wymer

B. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

1. Roll call was conducted.
   i. PRESENT
      1. Tiffany Polfer (Fresno), Kristie Pratt (Kern), Brian Martin (Kings), Smruti Deshpande (Merced), Alex Pollock (Porterville), Faythe Arredondo (Tulare County), Heidi Clark (Tulare City), Chris Wymer (Chair)
   ii. OTHERS PRESENT
      1. Kevin Nelson (SJVLS), Louisa Lopez (Merced)
   iii. ABSENT
      1. Yvonne Galvan (Coalinga-Huron), Sarah McIntyre (Madera), Matt Johnson (Mariposa)
2. Introductions were conducted.

C. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. Pratt (Kern) motioned to adopt the agenda as distributed.
   i. Clark (Tulare City) seconded the motion.
   ii. The motion passed.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. There were no comments from the public.

E. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

1. Pollock (Porterville) motioned to adopt the minutes as distributed.
   i. Deshpande (Merced) seconded the motion.
   ii. The motion passed.

F. PROJECTS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

1. FY 2025-26 Meeting Schedule – Wymer
   i. Wymer shared the proposed Automation Committee meeting schedule with the committee and asked if there were any conflicts or issues with the dates or meeting locations. No issues with the proposed schedule were identified.
      1. Pratt (Kern) motioned to accept the proposed meeting schedule.
      2. Arredondo (Tulare County) seconded.

a. Motion passed.
2. Horizon – Wymer
    i. Wymer provided an update on the future of Horizon after attending the COSUGI Conference. The word he's using to describe the conference is bittersweet. During the conference SirsiDynix and Harris both expressed there are no plans to end-of-life Horizon, and that they will continue to support the software if customers are using it. That being said, Harris's CEO also emphasized that they would size their support staff to reflect the number of customers using the software. Therefore, as more systems migrate to other ILSes, the number of staff supporting Horizon will decrease. At this time, it appears inevitable that SJVLS will need to migrate to a new ILS, especially with SirsiDynix not bidding Horizon on ILS RFPs.
    ii. Wymer discussed some challenges around the current situation. SJVLS's master agreement with SirsiDynix ends after FY 2025-26. At that time we can go year-to-year and stay on Horizon, but we will not have contractual agreements that limit the year-over-year increases in our annual maintenance costs. At the same time, SJVLS does not currently have enough staff for the ILS to take on a migration. Another complication is finding another system that would support all the differences in our members' circulation policies and provide the customization needed for a consortia of our size. The last time we reviewed ILS functionality, none of the proposed systems supported all SJVLS's needs. Wymer plans on informally reaching out to companies to ask about their products and features and start gathering information on what the next steps would look like and what changes might have to be made to allow a migration to happen.
    iii. Martin mentioned that he would like to see the next RFP scoring criteria emphasize features over cheapest price. The idea would be to ensure SJVLS is able to migrate to an ILS with a robust feature set, as opposed to a system with the cheapest price.
    iv. Pratt shared that customization of the public-facing interfaces needs to be a feature in the system that comes next.
3. ODBC Connector for BC Analytics – Wymer
    i. Wymer shared that during COSUGI he found out the connector to make live queries against Horizon from BC Analytics is available for self-hosted sites for a small, one-time fee of $1,800. The ODBC connector would allow us to pull in fields from Horizon that are not harvested by Analytics, along with getting live data. This would provide a pathway for SJVLS to migrate Jasper Reports into Analytics and eventually shut off Jasper.
    ii. Pratt asked about EZ Proxy reports if Jasper was turned off. Wymer will investigate MySQL's native reporting tools, or other ways to continue to offer EZ Proxy usage reports.
        1. Clark (Tulare City) motioned to approve adding the ODBC Connector.
        2. Pratt (Kern) seconded.
            a. Motion Passed
4. Legal Names – Wymer

      i.   Wymer asked the committee for an update on the new legal name field and searches, and how things are going with staff and patrons. The consensus was that preferred names are well received and are a nice service to offer patrons whose names have recently changed, but their official identification hasn't been updated. The main challenges around the transition have been training-related and adjusting to the change.

     ii.   Wymer then provided an update on a small bug that affected legal name browse searching and detailed the fix that was put in place by SirsiDynix staff.

5. Borrower Registration and Updating Info – Wymer

      i.   Prior to the meeting, both Madera County and Tulare Public reached out with different questions about borrower registration or updating registration information when a borrower moves.

     ii.   Clark shared that she's encountering more patrons with duplicate accounts created through self-registration, and access issues created by the recent changes to OverDrive authentication.

    iii.   Polfer then asked about documentation for self-registration. Wymer answered that there is not a lot of documentation, and he needs to correct it.

    iv.   Pratt mentioned that she's noticing a lot of patrons will create a second self-registration account when their first one expires, instead of coming into the library to convert the card into a full-use card.

     v.   Wymer then reviewed Madera's request about how to correctly update borrower information when a borrower moves jurisdictions, and asked the committee if it would help to have training on borrower records. The consensus was it is a good idea. Wymer will work on scheduling it.

6. Cataloging – Wymer

      i.   Wymer asked the committee how the change to copy cataloging is going and if there are any issues staff are running into. Overall, the change has been positive and there are not a lot of issues.

     ii.   Pollock shared that he runs into problems when he wants to import a record and there's an existing Zip book record in Horizon. In those situations, he cannot import the full record, because he was instructed to never overlay bib records. Other committee members shared their own challenges related to Zip books and that beginning next fiscal year, the State Library has new reporting requirements that will make cataloging and tracking of Zip book materials more important. Based on the various challenges, and the new reporting requirements, Wymer will make Zip Books an item for the next committee meeting.

    iii.   Wymer then asked about Original Cataloging. He shared the volume of original records requests this year has decreased dramatically from previous years. One of the reasons for the decrease in volume is members were under the impression they would have to pay for each record that's created and wanted to be judicious about their requests. Another reason is the process for creating digital surrogates is long and complicated. Wymer will see what he can do to make the process easier and remind the members that original records costs are paid for from membership dues and not billed to the requesting member as was originally proposed.

7. Suggested Search Terms in Enterprise – Wymer
    i. Wymer shared a recent issue with search suggestions that impacted Fresno County's internal catalog profiles. An offensive term was added to the suggestions and had to be removed. While asking for the term to be removed, SirsiDynix support informed Wymer that he could set up weekly email notifications to let staff know about new terms added to search suggestions.
    ii. Wymer informed the committee that he will add all JSAs to the search suggestions emails for all three of their Enterprise profiles. This way search suggestions can be monitored both for offensive terms that should be blacklisted from appearing as suggestions, as well to allow staff to keep track of popular searches by their patrons.
    iii. Additional staff can also receive the updated suggestion emails. Wymer just needs to know who should receive them. He will set up the JSAs to start receiving them this week.
8. Windows 11 Transition – Wymer
    i. Wymer shared that Microsoft has announced an end-of-life date for Windows 10 of October 14, 2025. This isn't an issue for staff workstations, and we should be able to transition staff to Windows 11 by the deadline. Public workstations are more problematic. SJVLS has not found a way to disable patrons from logging into apps and services under Windows 11. This is an issue because it could allow other patrons to either: view and use someone else's account or be able to see who else has used that computer, creating a privacy issue. If a method for locking down public computers isn't found, SJVLS will have to consider a subscription to a service like Deep Freeze.
    ii. Martin shared that the College Library he also works at has deployed Windows 11 for public computers and have found ways to lock down the features that give SJVLS concerns. He will double-check how that's being done and report back to SJVLS.

G. STAFF REPORTS

1. Senior Systems Network Engineer
    i. Nelson reported the Spring PC Order is moving faster than expected. The order has already been delivered to SJVLS Headquarters. Unfortunately, the freight elevator broke down this morning, and SJVLS cannot distribute PCs or printers until it's fixed.
    ii. Nelson also reported that the Year 11 CENIC selections are complete and SJVLS is ready to return them to CENIC to prepare the amendment paperwork.
    iii. Nelson then encouraged committee members to consider sending staff to the CENIC conference. He mentioned that conference attendance is heavily in favor of research universities and institutions, and it would be beneficial to have a larger representation of public library networking staff at the conference.
    iv. Nelson's final update provided information about the status of SJVLS's Category 2 E-Rate projects. The 2021 WiFi Expansion project is nearing completion. Most of the locations are fully installed and complete. There are only a few branches with work left to do, and a couple of issues to

circle back and correct. The 2024 and 2025 projects are being finalized and the Agreement to Orders should be signed soon.

2. System Administrator
    i. Wymer informed the committee that SJVLS hired a Librarian III. They are going to start on June 23, 2025.
    ii. Wymer then provided an update on the BC Mobile 2.0 migration. He has not had a chance to do any additional set up work. At the COSUGI conference, SirsiDynix shared a mockup of the linked accounts feature that's currently in development. Once this feature is ready, we can migrate.
    iii. Wymer's next update was to inform the committee that he's scheduled an upgrade for Enterprise. The upgrade will take place on June 2. It will start at 7:00 a.m. and should be completed by lunchtime. The reason for the upgrade was to address issues with creating display codes in the administrative interface.
    iv. Wymer's final update was to inform the committee that the State Library announced they will release a new set of Broadband Grant funding in June. Wymer hopes to apply for grant funding to cover the members' portions of the 2025 Category 2 project, which will replace HQ routers with models designed to support higher bandwidth. These are needed in order to continue upgrading branch bandwidth to faster speeds.

H. CALENDAR ITEMS

1. Date and location for next Automation Committee Meeting
    i. July 16, 2025 online via Microsoft Teams.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Deshpande announced that Merced County re-opened their Dos Palos Library in its new building. The branch was renamed to Jerry O'Banion Library. Funding for the new construction was provided through the State Library's Infrastructure Grants.
2. Pratt announced the Kern River Valley Library renovations were completed that the branch just re-opened for service. The Taft Library will re-open on June 2. The Arvin, California City, and Wasco branches just closed for renovations.
3. Martin announced that he's trying a new brand of printers after HP costs increased recently. He tested the Brothers brand printer and it's been working great so far.
4. Polfer announced that the Sanger Library re-opened on Monday. The Selma branch renovation is still on-going.
5. Arredondo announced that Tulare County is expecting to re-open the Springville Library in its new building this fall. The Alpaugh Library will be the next branch closing for renovations.

J. ADJOURNMENT

1. There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 12:32 pm.