

NEW WISCAT FUNCTIONALITY

The new AGen[™] product from Auto-Graphics will offer the WISCAT Statewide Resource Sharing system many improvements over the previous two-vendor WISCAT/WISCATILL system. Some of the advantages of implementing the Auto-Graphics system include the following. Keep in mind that not all of the features listed may be implemented immediately.

In the Hybrid Union/Virtual Catalog Module:

1. A single, integrated user interface for the hybrid union/virtual catalog as well as for the interlibrary loan management system.
2. The look and feel of the WISCAT searching environment will remain much the same as the current product with which most users are familiar, thus easing training and transition.
3. The union catalog bibliographic records are already consolidated into a single catalog, so a new database will not have to be built or merged; this reduces implementation time.
4. With the seamless search interface between the union and the virtual catalogs, it may not be necessary to load records to the union catalog for those shared systems that are Z39.50 compliant.
5. The product is extremely customizable. It allows customization and "branding" at the state level as well as at the local library level.
6. Each library can easily create its own customized splash page for the catalog if they wish.
7. The product allows user preferences to be set so that individual library staff and/or patron users may change the look and feel of the product to achieve a "my library" functionality.
8. The product includes a user feedback/comment feature that can be customized to send feedback to Division staff or customized at the local library level to allow library patrons to email support personnel at their local library.
9. Each local library can create its own scoping groups and holding display groups.

10. Scoped searches can be applied to Z39 hosts in the virtual catalog or to a single library within a Z39 catalog, as well as to records/holdings in the union catalog.
11. Since the scoping is set up either locally or at the state level, it can be created or changed at any time without waiting for vendor intervention.
12. With a single click feature called "Continuous Brief Browse", results sets from multiple catalogs can be deduplicated and resorted so that results can be displayed together.
13. The holdings update input function is easy, customizable, and familiar to current users.
14. Authorization can be granted for a library or clearinghouse to act as an agent for the updating of multiple location holdings. This will facilitate updating in school districts, where a district office updates the catalog for all of its schools.
15. Batch holdings updates to the union catalog (strip & reload) can happen at any time during the year.
16. A number of Enrichment options are available at the state level, including cover art and book reviews; a "Buy This Item" feature links the user to commercial booksellers such as Amazon.
17. The union catalog can be configured to display shelf status for availability in local automated catalogs that support Z39.50.
18. Users can create, print and download formatted bibliographies.
19. Use statistics are very complete, and are available online for each library to view, print or download; available catalog statistics include logins and searches done, holdings updates done; records downloaded.
20. The Division has had a good experience and relationship with the Auto-Graphics company and with their process of software upgrades; user support is fast; and the company is extremely responsive to customer suggestions.

In the Interlibrary Loan Management Module:

1. The hybrid searching interface between the union and the virtual catalogs allows additional holdings to be added to a request from other duplicate titles within the union catalog or from Z39.50 catalogs.
2. The product is completely ISO compliant for both requesting and responding.
3. The product allows for customizable pickslips, shipping lists, received & returned slips, so that Wisconsin can create slips that are similar to our existing slips.
4. Request forms can be customized at the statewide level as to which fields are present, which fields are defaults, which fields are mandatory, and which field labels are used.
5. Patron-initiated requesting can be authorized at the individual requesting library level.
6. The product can be configured so that it will require library users to borrow from their own library or region prior to requesting materials from other libraries outside their region; the product will display an alert to the patron if a requested item is locally owned.
7. Patrons can track their own requests; patron tracking allows easily understood request status terminology.
8. The product has a "Book Club" feature that allows a requester to specify the number of copies needed, and will automatically separate that request into multiple requests sent to different lending strings.
9. Request forms allow library users to select a preferred pickup location from a menu, which can then be used in the shipping process; the pickup location prints on shipping lists and on received lists.
10. Lending strings can have an unlimited number of library locations; and the product automatically adds library locations found in the catalog, to the lending string, according to the requesting library's profile.
11. The product can check the shelf status of a potential lender's Z39.50 catalog, prior to sending a request to that lender, and can skip the location if the item is checked out or otherwise not available.

12. The product can check the policy statement of a potential lender prior to sending a request to that lender, and can skip the location if their policy indicates that the library does not lend the type of media requested (e.g. does not lend DVDs).
13. The product allows a library to limit the number of requests a specific patron may have at one time.
14. The product allows a flexible number of Expiry days to be set for libraries that cannot address their incoming requests in 4 days. The state can set any number of expiry days either at the state level or at the individual library level.
15. The product displays a Red Flag icon on the request when its expiry date is within 24 hours; the product displays a special Notes icon with a request when the requester has added a note.
16. The product can send an email alert to a Low Volume responding library that gets few requests, so that they do not have to check the system every day for incoming requests.
17. The product can send email notifications to a library's patron when an item is received at their library to pick up.
18. The product can automatically send requests via email protocol to libraries that do not use the system directly, so they can participate in resource sharing.
19. The product facilitates many of the ILL clearinghouse functions that have traditionally been handled by some Wisconsin public library systems; it allows a clearinghouse to request and respond to requests on behalf of libraries in their system without having to log in and out as each library.
20. Interlibrary loan traffic, fill statistics and turnaround statistics are very complete, and are available online for each library to view, print or download.