

**Department of Education Budget Presentation**  
**Discussion regarding replacing the statewide network system**  
**January 21, 2015**

**SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE**

- The South Dakota Library Network (SDLN) is a consortium of libraries across the state. It was launched in 1986, in a pre-Internet era when shared resources and linked connectivity were in their infancy.
- Participation in SDLN is voluntary. The South Dakota State Library has been a member since the consortium's inception.
- As times and technology have changed, SDLN is going through a period of transition. The consortium as it is currently known will be dissolved as of June 30, 2016. Only the Board of Regent libraries will remain and share an online system.
- One important service SDLN provided to its member libraries was an integrated library system (ILS) – basically, a shared catalog of resources – consisting of 60 major libraries' resources for the purposes of discovery, research and inter-library loan facilitation. It served as both an ILS system (online catalog) and as a statewide network for discovery and inter-library loan facilitation. Member libraries could do their own ILLs without assistance from the State Library.
- When the consortium is dissolved, this ILS service, as provided by SDLN, will go away. The resources available on the system will begin to diminish as libraries leave the consortium starting immediately. This means member libraries in the future will need to find another option for one-stop searches. Most of the libraries are currently in the process of purchasing and migrating their collection's records to individual systems.
- The South Dakota State Library is pursuing options for an affordable alternative to the loss of a "networked" statewide system.
  - One such technology alternative is an option referred to as an "overlay" or "discovery layer." An overlay allows for individual libraries to maintain their own ILS and still "view" the catalogues of other libraries, creating a fluid and viewable network of South Dakota resources instantly.
  - A second alternative would be a group subscription to the international OCLC database of library resources (WorldCat or OCLC). There are currently 19 libraries in South Dakota with access to the full OCLC system including just six SD public libraries. By adding in additional public libraries (example: Alexander Mitchell Public Library [Aberdeen] does not currently have access to OCLC) this second alternative would allow access for up to 41 of our largest collections and most active libraries.
  - With either option the above libraries would be able to facilitate their own library-to-library interlibrary loans.
- Results of inaction: Statewide ILLs will be shouldered and facilitated by the SD State Library and the SD Regental Library system.