



IT Board Report for April 2017

IUG Conference

All three IHLS IT staffers attended the Innovative User's Group (IUG) in Washington, DC this year. This is the first time we've attended since the user group was solely a Polaris user group.

The meeting this year was extremely useful. Each of us noted how much we appreciated meeting the people we talk to on the phone on a daily basis as well as meeting library consortia around the world that can relate to the way the SHARE group implements Polaris and the challenges it brings for a large consortium.

Other great takeaways worth mentioning:

1. Technical sessions on server hardware virtualization and new technologies around how data is stored on physical disks.
2. Sessions on disaster recovery methods and how Amazon Web Services might be able to be utilized.
3. Patron privacy and the new changes that Polaris 5.2 has introduced to keep patron data even more secure.
4. LEAP (the web based Polaris circulation application) is the future for Innovative. All the "future" screenshots included an interface that is the current LEAP. This is very encouraging for our future, as we are already on and using the platform Innovative is developing on.
5. Sessions explaining what's coming in version 5.5 of Polaris and the new design of the public web catalog (PAC). The website will work on mobile phones, tablets and computers now from one site. Mobile PAC will no longer be needed.
6. MyLibrary is an Apple iOS app that currently works with other Innovative products but is being developed to work with Polaris as well.
7. Brant attended a session for "hackers" who write code specifically for Polaris and other Innovative products. He is interested in getting more involved in this group of programmers that make software that utilizes all the utilities Innovatives makes available to us.

We also met up with other consortia managers in Canada, Chicago, Ohio, New York, and many other locations. This group of consortia managers are working together and sharing solutions. IHLS and SHARE are doing amazing things in the world of library technology and we are driving innovation as we go. This conference made me very proud of what we've all accomplished.

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Brown, IT Director