

Z39.50 and What It Means to Kansas Libraries

by Patti Butcher, Director of Resource Sharing



Query: Other than serving as the last letter of the alphabet, why would a Kansas library care about Z targets?

Answer: Because it will completely change the way library holdings in the KLC will be handled – beginning next month!

The State Library is changing the Kansas Library Catalog (KLC) from the current model to a hybrid catalog that includes real-time access to local library catalogs.

The KLC will continue to reflect the bulk of Kansas library holdings - but in many cases the information retrieved as part of a search will include not only the library holdings, but also actual shelf status.

What is the plan?

We will move libraries in groups, according to their ILS, beginning this spring with: AGenT VERSO libraries, ExLibris Voyager, SirsiDynix Unicorn, and SirsiDynix Horizon. The next group will include KOHA libraries and Innovative Interface (III).

As libraries migrate, they will stop adding holdings to the KLC database; their local ILS will “become” part of the KLC. Searching the KLC will search the database AND all the Z target libraries at the same time.

This plan will allow the State Library to purchase fewer duplicate records from OCLC. Currently, Kansas libraries add their holdings to WorldCat. The State Library then pays OCLC for a copy of each record to put into the KLC.

This plan will also streamline the interlibrary loan process, as Z target libraries will only receive ILL requests from the AGenT system for items on the shelf and available. The KLC will more quickly reflect updates to local catalogs.

Libraries that have questions about their ILS’s compliance with Z39.50 standards, or specific questions about their library’s status, may contact Jeff Hixon (e-mail: jeffh@kslib.info, or phone 785/296-3154) or Rhonda Machlan (e-mail: rmachlan@kslib.info, or phone 785/296-5110).