

## Wisconsin Valley Library Service (WVLS) – V-Cat Strategic Plan 2015-2016

V-Cat Council serves a consortium of libraries to optimize user-oriented automated products and support to enable members to leverage costs, improve services, and facilitate improved communication within the context of the larger Wisconsin library network.

### Statements of V-Cat Council Vision:

These statements clarify core expectations, which together form a vision of a well-functioning V-Cat Council. They are complimented by the list of broad strategies employed to fulfill the vision.

- **FOCUS ON THE USER** V-Cat focuses on services and technologies that directly benefit the end user.
- **INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES** V-Cat embraces innovative technologies to serve member libraries, and provide them in the most cost-effective manner. The consortium is flexible and capitalizes on the rapidly changing technological environment.
- **FUNDING** V-Cat members benefit from sustainable and ongoing funding by sharing the operational costs of the Integrated Library System (ILS).
- **HEALTHY CONSORTIUM** V-Cat builds strong, collaborative relationships among the member libraries.
- **EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE** The consortium provides an effective governance structure that allows full participation by all members in all types of libraries.

### Broad Strategies to Accomplish the Consortium Vision

Specific actions to accomplish these strategies are developed by the WVLS/V-Cat Steering Committee and carried out by WVLS staff, V-Cat committees, and the V-Cat Council.

#### FOCUS ON THE USER

- Continue to expand access to the depth and richness of resources available for the user.
- Create a responsive environment through a combined suite of services and utilities. The common system will provide comprehensive discovery of books, articles, and digital assets.
- Ensure that planning for a future ILS focuses on user behavior and needs.

#### INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

- Continue investigation of technology to serve member libraries, including library systems, discovery tools, and systems to store digital assets.
- Offer member-driven discussion of current technology, emerging services, and best practices.
- Continue to sponsor vendor demonstrations at meetings.
- Develop and implement systems that are scalable for all institutions.

#### FUNDING

- Use economies of scale to provide services for member libraries.
- Maintain a strong working relationship with the WVLS Office, legislators, and other funding sources.

#### HEALTHY CONSORTIUM

- Be sensitive and regularly re-evaluate the varying needs of member libraries due to size, funding streams, clientele, and geography.

- Foster broad involvement by utilizing a variety of communications methods, including electronic lists, webinars, and meetings.
- Use the skills and expertise of member librarians and WVLS staff to provide professional development opportunities for staff of member libraries with workshops and specialized training.

#### **EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

- Continue to ensure that member librarians participate in governance, despite finite budgets, staffing limitations, and geographic distance.