

Agreement between the Mohawk Valley Library System (MVLS) and the Southern
Adirondack Library System (SALS) Joint Automation Project and the

The Mohawk Valley Library System and the Southern Adirondack Library System have jointly provided integrated automation services to their member libraries since 1983 through the MVLS/SALS Joint Automation Project. The Agreement between the two systems articulates the vision and mission of the Project, stating:

VISION: We will achieve excellence in the library and informational services in the eight counties communities through technology.

MISSION: MVLS and SALS will collaboratively support and provide access to an integrated automated library system through a joint automation project. We will respond to and assist member libraries with technical support, training and resources by utilizing current and emerging technologies.

The Joint Automation Council was established in 2003 by the two library system boards to “initiate policies and decisions regarding library automation services to the member libraries, recommend policy and advise the two System Boards on issues related to the provision of library automation services including funding”.

The Joint Automation Council is a group of representatives from the member libraries and two systems and an ‘unaffiliated’ party. Libraries are encouraged to participate in the council and in its committees and user groups. A consortium requires all members’ involvement to facilitate shared decision making so that local needs are considered, common policies formed and appropriate budgets developed.

The _____ understands that the MVLS/SALS Joint Automation Project is a cooperative project, sharing resources over the eight counties served by the two library systems and will work collaboratively with other member libraries, the Joint Automation Council, Joint Automation Staff and system staff to insure the efficient operation and security of the automated system for all participants.

With a shared patron database, each library is expected to enforce confidentiality laws and policies to ensure that all personal information including borrowing, requests, and information searches remain private. The Joint Automation Project requires all library staff, volunteers and trustees to respect every user's privacy. It expects libraries to enact appropriate local policies, procedures and necessary training to protect confidentiality.

Joint Automation Staff is the sole administrator of the ILS (integrated library system) including any central site hardware, software, and network equipment. Joint Automation Staff is the designated official contact with Innovative, our current automation provider for the Polaris ILS.

To facilitate the use of the automated system by the member libraries of the Mohawk Valley Library System and the Southern Adirondack Library System, the Joint

Automation Project provides automation services and support including, but not limited to:

- Provision of an online catalog, circulation, acquisitions, cataloging, and other functionality necessary to support library services
- Development, improvement and support of central site and local networks necessary for access to the ILS and providing library services to patrons
- Security measures including appropriate firewalls to protect the JA network
- Support for telecommunication services to provide staff connectivity to the ILS
- Full technical support of the network
- Support of member library automation needs during library hours and emergency support as needed
- Support of member library computers purchased through JA or with JA approval, including troubleshooting problems
- Loan of equipment for staff computers
- Hardware support for member library computer equipment including peripherals such as keyboards, barcode readers, and printers
- Hardware support for library local area networks, including wireless and other advancements in network technology
- Maintenance of appropriate files, reports, and other Polaris software applications responsive to member library needs
- User accounts on the Polaris System
- Email accounts and OneDrive access for library staff
- A Joint Automation Intranet providing information and support documentation about the automation system and services
- Coordinated purchase of computer equipment, peripherals, bar codes and other associated items
- Assistance with access to databases, if needed
- Consultation services on member library technology needs including wireless initiatives, local area networks, building projects etc.

The provision of these and other services is funded through State Aid and system funds received by the Mohawk Valley Library System and the Southern Adirondack Library System and by fees paid by member libraries. Grant funds are also pursued for specific automation activities.

Project budgets and member library fees are determined by a structure approved by the Joint Automation Council and the MVLS and SALS Boards of Trustees. Member libraries are billed on a monthly basis. Changes in the fee structure are announced by the Joint Automation Council and the two System Directors no later than March 1 of the year preceding any change. Any changes become effective with the January billing (sent in February). Member Library payments to the MVLS/SALS Joint Automation Project represent resources used by that library and do not represent a financial equity in the system.

Library Responsibilities:

- Act in conformity with applicable New York State Law and Regulations of the Commissioner of Education
- Develop, approve and enforce a confidentiality policy that protects the privacy of all library users. All staff and volunteers will need to sign a JA security policy.

- Abide by the approved policies of the Joint Automation Project
- Follow system conventions for the entry of patron and item information into the shared database
- Notify Joint Automation staff of problems with network performance or connectivity as soon as possible after the problem is experienced
- Notify Joint Automation staff to report equipment or software problems
- Provide training to library staff that explains the Joint Automation Project and the needs for appropriate security of database records, transactions, and public and staff computers. The library staff member providing this training must have been trained by JA staff or the System trainers.
- Notify the Joint Automation staff as early as possible of impending building or other facility changes or plans that will impact the provision of automated services
- Notify the Joint Automation staff of staff changes
- Pay fees and charges as expeditiously as possible
- Provide a contact person for the library in the event of network problems occurring during library closed hours

This agreement may be terminated by mutual agreement of the parties or a library may choose to withdraw from the Joint Automation Project with 180 days (6 months) notification to both the Joint Automation Council and to the appropriate System Director.

In the event of withdrawal from the Joint Automation Project, the library is entitled to an electronic file(s) of patrons who reside in the chartered area, bibliographic records and item records. These files will be provided by Joint Automation staff in standard format at no charge to the library. Should the library require custom programming of these files, the Joint Automation Council shall determine an equitable charge for this processing. No portion of fees paid will be refunded if a library opts out of the project.

For the _____

Board of Trustee President

Date: _____

MVLS Board President
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Date: _____

SALS Board President
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Date: _____

Revised March 2, 2021