

For the past year, SHARE committees have been reviewing new technologies, including something called a discovery layer, which would integrate with Polaris and replace our existing Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC). After careful review, the SHARE Circulation & Resource Sharing Committee determined that Aspen, from ByWater Solutions, would be the best fit for our member libraries if we decide to move forward.

It would offer a significant upgrade with additional member engagement tools, plus it addresses some ongoing challenges, specifically the current OPAC algorithm and the current limitations of e-resources integration.

At the same time, we are aware that there are some very real concerns about pricing and fee increases. SHARE Finance & Policy Committee met to determine what this might look like for members. One option would be to only offer this product to those that want it, with full customization, at a cost of \$2,500 for each public and academic library, as an optional add-on.

The drawback is that we have to get a minimum of 25 libraries to participate in order to move forward. If we reach that, we can then open it up for the full group at a much lower price for the "base" PAC option of \$250 extra per year for everyone else. Those libraries wouldn't get the additional custom branding or e-resources, but they would get a better OPAC overall. That will help get us closer to the end goal of every library, no matter their size or budget, having top-of-the-line technology at a low cost.

This is not something that SHARE committee members are undertaking lightly, and we need member feedback! I would like to encourage SHARE members to visit the ByWater Solutions exhibitor booth at IHLS Member Day to check out this potential new product. We will also plan some member demos for later in the year. Please let us know what you think! We would love to get feedback to gauge if members would be willing to pay either the \$2,500 for full customization or \$250 for a base product.

Thank you for participating in this process and in our community.

Cassandra Thompson