

IT Report for IHLS Board, Sept 23, 2014

Update on Telecommunications Upgrade

After the recent upgrades to the telephone system to consolidate services and equipment, the projected monthly savings are now being realized. The transition to the new system went off without a hitch and since our staff continued to use the same telephones they already had, there wasn't a learning curve. We have started seeing the savings of ~\$950/mo as we now have only one telephone service provider instead of three.

As we continue to monitor usage and work with the provider to streamline our service, we may still have the ability to save even more. Currently we have 16 phone lines dedicated to IHLS staff in all 3 locations, but that might be able to be reduced once actual usage is monitored for several months.

Polaris Upgrade to Test Web-based Circulation Client

We are scheduled to receive the latest upgrade from Polaris to start testing the web based circulation client call LEAP. This upgrade will first happen in our test environment and will only be available to IHLS staff. Once it has gone through our testing, we will upgrade our production environment to Polaris 5.0 and make it more widely available to the IHLS libraries. The whole process should take about 6 months.

Video Conferencing Bridge

After a very successful meeting during last month's board meeting, we are investigating the possibility of partnering with RAILS to use their video bridge or looking into the possibility of having our own bridge. Cost is a huge factor in this decision and as soon as we know more we'll let you know.

Other News

The IT staff focuses heavily on daily requests from members and IHLS staff for needs. We have hired an IT Specialist in Champaign and we are in the process of hiring a Dream Grant Web Developer soon.