

JA Operations Committee

October 29, 2025

9:30 at SALS

Draft minutes

Attendees: Becky Fasulo COR, Guin Forshey (for Caitlin Costa) GLE, Nicole Hauser GLV, Michele Largeteau, Trevor Oakley SAR, Sharon O'Brien, Jill Ryder, Jason Thomson, Gwen Weldy CPH

Excused: Erica Wing JOH

Guests: Eric Trahan

Council chair Michele Largeteau started the meeting at 9:35

Introduction

Michele started the meeting thanking everyone for their attendance.

A few important points were reiterated:

- *Jill, Sharon, Jason and Michele have been working on the basic setup and testing of Vega Discover.*
- *Vega Discover works with a bibframe database that has been extracted from our Polaris ILS database. This database automatically syncs with our live production data. Keep this in mind when testing – all data is live.*
- *Currently, eContent is not fully functional.*
- *We are not ready to release Vega Discover for patron use, so please do not share the URLs with patrons. You can share them with library staff.*

Vega Discover

Introduction

- Collection sites / URLs
 - *There is a collection site for “All Libraries” and a separate collection site for each library.*
 - <https://search.sals.edu> links to the “All Libraries” collection site

- <https://XXX.search.sals.edu> (ie. <https://ams.search.sals.edu> for Amsterdam Free Library's collection site)
 - You can "Select a library" at the top to switch between library collection sites.
- Guides and cookies
 - The cookies preference pop-up should go away around 11/4.
- Terminology
 - Collection site – Each library has its own collection site that is configured to show that library's collection first.
 - You can click "View all libraries" to see holdings for a title at other libraries.
 - Custom links – the links on the grey bar just below the logo and library name
 - Facets – the links on the left after a search, similar to dashboards in the PowerPAC
 - Showcases – are like carousels in the PowerPAC
- Monthly updates
 - Vega Discover software is updated monthly. JA and system staff get an email of the changes about a week before, but they just happen. This is very different from our Polaris upgrade process.
- Enhancements – There is an enhancement process called IdeaExchange where ideas can be posted and voted on. Vega Discover developers get many of their changes from IdeaExchange, although posting an idea does not guarantee its implementation. Ideas with more votes will get higher consideration.

Features and differences

- Bib and item updates
 - Bibliographic records are synced with an overnight job.
 - Item status changes and new items are updated in real-time or close to that.
- Scoping vs location facet
 - In Vega Discover, a search shows all titles in the system, with titles that are the best match at the top.
 - A user can use the **Location** facet after a search to narrow the results to a specific library or libraries.
 - Or a user can first click on "Advanced search" to set the location(s) before entering a search term.

- The **Location** facet shows the locations sorted by the number of hits for each location. If you are on a library collection site, that location is first. Or, if the patron is logged in, the patron's home library is first. The sort could be changed to alphabetical but is a global setting.
- Location info & hours
 - We have added a **Library Info** link to all sites on the custom links bar that links to the library website.
 - We decided to disable the built in Vega Discover function for several reasons:
 - The dropdown always defaults to Amsterdam because it is alphabetical.
 - It cannot display split hours for libraries with a break in hours in the same day.
 - It requires double entry of data because it does not pull this information from our Polaris ILS.
- Showcases
 - Jill, Sharon, Jason and Michele are still testing and learning what is possible for Showcases.
 - There are permissions and standards to be explored, and we need more time to get familiar with the possibilities.
 - Several Showcase display options were demonstrated.
 - Showcases can be created from **Bookmarks, ILS lists and Saved searches.**
 - Jason has tried to recreate as many carousels and search links from the existing PowerPAC pages as possible.
 - Some searches (such as by call number wildcard or by genre) could not be recreated.
 - The Best Seller Showcases cannot be shown on the collection site main page. It will only show up under a title that is on the list.
 - Some things to be considered for determining access to creating Showcases:
 - Everyone can see everyone else's showcases.
 - Once a Showcase is published it will display on all title result pages for titles in the Showcase for **ILS List and Saved Search Showcases** – if the title is on many lists it appears to show the first two lists (alphabetically) with a link to the others.
 - In some places the internal Showcase name is displayed.
- Roll Ups

- *Bibs with the exact same Title, Author, Language and Format group will roll up to one entry with multiple tabs for different formats.*
- *Some examples were shown, including some places where the roll up is misleading, such as travel guides and picture books. It was noted that catalogers could add series entries to travel guide bibs, but that would be a tedious manual update that would need to be maintained, so not ideal.*
- **eContent:**
 - *eContent in Vega Discover is still not working the way we would hope. We are apparently more complicated than other sites due to our libraries having different eContent subscriptions. Ill thought they had a way to make it work, but they learned that it didn't work as they had thought.*
 - *Ill says they are working on changes that will be closer to what we would want, but there is no ETA on those changes, and we have not seen a description of the changes.*
 - *Gwen noted that CPH is investigating moving away from CloudLibrary to either Hoopla or Overdrive.*
 - *There was a request to change the icon for the "Ebook available from..." from Overdrive to Libby. Jason will investigate this.*
 - *For Overdrive and CloudLibrary – current options:*
 - **Option 1:**
 - *Delete all Overdrive and CloudLibrary bibs and items from the Polaris ILS and use the API to ingest records into Vega Discover*
 - *Like the PowerPAC now, no bibs would show on the **All Libraries** site*
 - *This will remove them from the current PAC and from the staff client and LEAP*
 - *We have not tested this yet*
 - **Option 2 – in place now:**
 - *Leave all records showing on all sites (including **All Libraries**)*
 - *Titles available at that site will show as **GET IT** or **Place Hold**.*
 - *Titles not available for that site will show **Check Availability** and the patron will have to click a few things to find out if they have access.*

- *NOTE: For CloudLibrary titles will always show this way as you can be on the CPH collection site, but not a CPH patron.*
 - *Option 3 – hold off on the roll out of Vega Discover until III is able to implement changes to make it work properly. It was discussed that libraries in NYS are required to have catalogs accessible by April 26, 2026.*
- *Hoopla*
 - *Hoopla does not currently have a way for us to ingest just the Hoopla subset of records that we currently have in the catalog. If we were to ingest Hoopla records into Vega Discover it would pull all XXXXXX records.*
 - *Hoopla Option 1 - Keep Hoopla records as they are now – all titles we currently import show for all sites with **Check Availability**. The patron will have to click and attempt to log in to find out they do not have access.*
 - *Hoopla Option 2 - Turn off display in PAC on all Hoopla bibs and add a link to Hoopla for sites that have a subscription. The patron will need to log into Hoopla to search. This will remove Hoopla records from Vega Discover and the PowerPAC, but will keep them available to staff via the client or LEAP.*
 - *There is a fix in the works for Hoopla to work like the other eContent in Vega Discover by site, but there is no ETA.*

Options and Decisions

- Philosophy and branding
 - *There was discussion about keeping all Vega Discover collection sites with the look and feel vs allowing sites to customize. No decision was made at this time.*
- Logo
 - *The current PowerPAC logo and a new logo were demonstrated. The decision was to put the new logo on all sites for now.*
- Site timeout
 - *There is an available site timeout for Vega Discover. It will time the user out with a warning whether they are logged in or not. The setting can be done by collection site. It was decided to set to 15 minutes globally.*
- Translations

- *We have the ability to change wording in many places.*
- *We have already changed **Concept**->**Subject** and **Find a copy**->**View all libraries***
- *There was discussion of possible changing **Locations**->**Libraries** but no decision was made.*
- *In particular, we feel that **Persons** is not a good label for that facet. Any suggestions are welcome.*
- Custom links
 - *7 custom links are allowed on the grey bar just below the logo and library name. We have currently set the following:*
 - **Classic Catalog, Library Info and Get a library card**
 - *For MVLS libraries only – **eBooks, eAudiobooks & eMagazines***
 - *It was discussed that individual libraries could possibly add more as appropriate.*
- Patron address changes
 - *If this is turned on, patrons in Vega Discover can change their address, but the change takes place immediately without notification or approval by library staff. It was decided to keep this option turned off.*
- All Libraries site
 - *On the **All Libraries** site we have the option to display all libraries with holdings on the main results page or to turn this off and the user will need to click **View all libraries** to see holdings. It was decided to turn this off to minimize space on the results page.*
- New Materials Facet
 - *The built-in **New Materials** facet in Vega Discover displays titles based on the first item added system wide. This means it is not necessarily accurate for libraries who have added titles at a later date. It was decided to remove this facet.*
 - *The **New Stuff** links in the PowerPAC were custom coded by Jason, and we do not have a way to recreate them at this time. Libraries can create record sets to be displayed as Showcases for new titles.*
- Social Media sharing & Citation sharing
 - *These functions were demonstrated and can be set globally or by collection site. It was decided to keep all settings enabled.*
 - *Social Media – Email, X, Facebook*
 - *This function can be enabled on any of these pages - results page, individual result, full resource cards, My Bookshelf.*

Cats



no-reply@iivega.com

To: me · Fri, Oct 24 at 11:58 AM ▾



Herkata Valley and Southern Adirondack
Library Systems
CATALOG

MVLS / SALS

Take a look at the following item

Cats

Publication date: 2020

Check availability and additional information in [MVLS / SALS](#)

- - **Citation**

- - *This function can be enabled on any of these pages - individual result, full resource cards, My Bookshelf.*

Vega Discover Citation



no-reply@iivega.com

To: me · Fri, Oct 24 at 12:22 PM ▾



Herkata Valley and Southern Adirondack
Library Systems
CATALOG

MVLS / SALS

Take a look at the following Modern Language Association (MLA) citation

Moore, Liz. *The God of the Woods*. Riverhead Books, 2024.

Check availability and additional information in [MVLS / SALS](#)

- - ***My Bookshelf*** was demonstrated, and it was noted that reading history cannot be edited in Vega Discover.
 - Guin asked if GLE's StackMap feature is available in Vega Discover. Jason will look into this.

Enhancements

- Vega Discover Product Board
 - <https://portal.productboard.com/iii/15-vega-product-portal/tabs/64-discover>
 - *Staff can go to this site to see the current development of Vega Discover.*
- Requested – IdeaExchange
 - *There was discussion about the following Ideas that are either already requested or will be.*
 - Search by genre - *this is not available in Vega Discover currently*
 - Holds Place in Line
 - *Vega Discover displays **Place in Line** on the patron account holds list, and this cannot be turned off. It was discussed that giving patrons some information, even if not totally accurate, might not be a bad thing.*
 - Patron address changes – *we would want the ability to send the request to staff like in the PowerPAC.*
 - Borrow by Mail (GLE only) - *Vega Discover can only turn this option on globally for all sites.*
 - Recently returned status – *Vega Discover has a global setting for showing an item as recently returned. We would like this to follow the Polaris ILS settings for shelving status by library.*
 - Showcases for best seller lists – *These cannot currently be on a collection site main page.*
 - New stuff – *Ideally the **New materials** facet would work by available date for the individual collection site.*
 - Schedule a saved search – *This function is not available in Vega Discover.*
 - Ask Us – *The built-in library info would have a link to an email address, but we turned this off for reasons discussed earlier in the meeting. Since we have added a link to the library's website, patrons could contact through that. CPH has an Ask a question link that goes to a page on their website.*

Next steps

It was decided that the committee would like to review Vega Discover and possibly review with staff. Jason will make changes based on the decisions of this committee. Michele will document options still to be decided and reach out to the committee in a week or two.