

MVLS/SALS Joint Automation Project
Joint Automation Council Meeting July 15, 2026, 9:30 am
Meeting at SALS
Minutes

Present: Kim Bolan, Bill Bonner, Leah Fitzgerald (virtual), Guin Forshey, Alex Gutelius (virtual), Jesse Jensen, Kari Kakeh, Trevor Oakley, Tom Shaginaw, Eric Trahan, and Erica Wing.
Excused: Terry Pavoldi
Guests: Sharon O'Brien, Jill Ryder, Jason Thomson, and Kim Zimmer (virtual). Representatives from Clarivate were also present for part of the meeting, including Ashley Barey, Samantha Cuning (virtual), and Sam Quell.

Council Chair Guin Forshey called the meeting to order at 9:33.

The minutes for the May 13, 2026, JA Council meeting were approved. Motion: Tom Shaginaw:
Second: Bill Bonner. Ayes: All; Nays: none.

Financial reports and payment warrants for May and June 2026 were reviewed and received for audit. Motion: Eric Trahan; Second: Tom Shaginaw. Ayes: All; Nays: None.

Project Managers Report

PC Orders: The final 2025 order is finally complete. The laptop warrantee issue is resolved. The final machine was installed today in Middleburgh. The initial 2026 order in progress.

Polaris Upgrade: The upgrade to version 8.1 will be scheduled soon. The new version is expected to include many enhancements to Leap.

Vega Discover: Members were surveyed on Vega Discover implementation. The JA team used survey results and information from Clarivate to develop a recommendation to keep e-content in Polaris. Jesse has been invited to join the IUG (Innovative Users Group) Member Exclusive Enhancement Process working group.

SALS Evaluation: Jesse participated in sessions for the SALS planning process, and reported that libraries are looking for more training and website assistance.

Other Projects: Annual Report processing has been upgraded. The router replacement project is ongoing. JA has developed a new Mac Mini loaner program to help libraries determine if these machines are a viable fit for their libraries. Mac Minis now have a lower price than PCs. JA has implemented ThreatDown to protect against malicious websites, and continues to communicate with libraries about known security threats, including the recent issues with phishing faxes.

Vega Discover Report and Discussion

Jesse introduced the team from Clarivate, and provided more information on e-content testing and the survey results. Common themes from the survey include scoping searches to the local library and determining local availability.

The Clarivate representatives discussed available solutions.

Determining local availability: Options are available to add call number to the display in the initial search results. Users can also opt to set default search filters in Account Portal. One of the filters included is Location, which when configured will limit results to only titles assigned to the selected locations when the patron is logged into Discover. Another option would be to configure Kiosk sites. These are not currently in use, but by default would limit results to the Kiosk site location. The one drawback of these sites is there is not currently a way to broaden the search to include results for all locations.

Reading history and saved titles: JA staff and the Operations committee will develop a plan and schedule for migrating Saved Title Lists from the PowerPAC to Vega Discover. Once that is complete users will be able to continue to build and maintain their existing lists within Discover.

Search relevance: The representatives explained the concept of fuzzy matching used in Discover. When a search includes more than three words the results are deliberately less focused to facilitate locating content for which the user has incomplete information.

Showcases: E-content continues to be a challenge preventing us from enabling showcases within Discover. Clarivate is working on updating showcases so that they will correctly reflect titles that have been suppressed from display.

Cookie prompts: Again, Clarivate is working on a better solution for the cookie prompt that is displayed when users first access Discover. They emphasize that the solution must address the security needs that these prompts are addressing, however, agreed that the solution must be easily visible and navigable for the user.

Clarivate is working to improve communications. Ongoing upgrades will address some of these issues. Jesse will continue to provide updated information to libraries as that happens. There was also a recommendation to develop an FAQ for libraries.

Committee Reports

Finance: Committee members will receive a draft 2027 budget by early September. The budget will be presented to Council at the September 9 meeting. Work on the 2028 fees proposal will begin once all library annual report data is available.

Policy: The ongoing Privacy Policy development is covered below. Work on updated and new JA policies will begin in the fourth quarter.

Operations: As reported above, meetings will be held concerning the 8.1 upgrade and Vega Discover.

Old Business

JA Agreements: Kim reported on the Agreement development process. The goal is to have a version ready for action by the SALS and MVLS boards in September. We will then work to get the annual member library approval by Feb 1.

Privacy Policy: The updated version was discussed, specifically, moving vendor information to a separate, non-policy document. Further discussion occurred on the need to be specific in

protecting patron data. The Council voted to send the draft policy to the SALS and MVLS boards for their action. Motion: Eric Trahan; Second: Kim Bolan. Nays: Tom Shaginaw; Ayes: Remainder; Abstention: none.

New Business None

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57. Motion: Bill Bonner; Second: Tom Shaginaw. Ayes: all; Nays: none.

The next JA Council meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2026 at MVLS.