



EVERGREEN
INDIANATM
LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

2023 Annual Report

Coordinator Notes



Ruth Frasur Davis,
Coordinator

The Evergreen Indiana Library Consortium is one of the biggest and most notable collaborations between public libraries in the United States. Its success is a result of the leadership and teamwork provided by its members.

Thank you to all of you.

The year 2023 marked several notable events for the Evergreen Indiana Library Consortium. In the face of the massive courier disruptions, libraries showed their abilities to adjust and work together to keep materials flowing. The launch of LibraryIQ helps our members fulfill their commitment to make data driven decisions about their collections and services. And, for the first time since 2019, library workers gathered for the Evergreen Indiana Conference for colleague-driven training and much-needed face-to-face time in the Evergreen Indiana community of practice.

In its 15th year, Evergreen Indiana launched a new membership fee schedule that is responsive to library funding and necessary for consortium sustainability. The consortium also grew its membership, making even more resources available to more people. Evergreen Indiana continues to excel at providing tools for Indiana libraries and communities. I am proud to be a part of what this consortium has become in its first 15 years; and I'm grateful to be able to work alongside so many passionate, diligent, and service minded individuals. Thank you for making Evergreen Indiana great. The best is yet to come.

Consortium Highlights



LibraryIQ Insights Portal

The award-winning IQ platform provides library staff with the tools to easily maintain relevant collections, visualize patron engagement in real time, discover community specific needs, identify library strengths and challenges, and create actionable goals.

In 2023, the Evergreen Indiana Library Consortium adopted the IQ platform for all its member libraries leveraging the buying power of the group. This adoption provided immediate cost savings in terms of licensing as well as the opportunity to optimize spending for collection development and library services.

On August 18, over 100 individuals from member libraries convened at the Garrison Conference Center in Lawrence, Indiana for the first in-person Evergreen Indiana Conference since 2019. It was a long overdue chance to gather and learn from one another.

The biennial conference is an opportunity for staff from member libraries to meet for peer-led education, relationship building, and work sessions. This no-registration-cost event included nine sessions in three tracks (administration, cataloging, and patron services) as well as an introduction to Aspen Discovery.



2023 Evergreen Indiana Conference at Fort Harrison State Park



Pierceton Public Library

On November 21, with the leadership of director, Connie Anderson, Pierceton-Washington Township Public Library launched as the 129th public library member of Evergreen Indiana. Pierceton is in North Central Indiana and serves 1300+ residents.

Several volunteers from neighboring Evergreen Indiana libraries and staff from the Indiana State Library lent hands helping Pierceton Public Library catalog their collection of materials and become a fully automated library.

Our Year in Numbers

Statistics don't tell the whole story, but with Evergreen Indiana as a consortium of public libraries committed to enhanced resource sharing and collaborative librarianship, numbers tell an important part of that story. Even with all the challenges caused by the courier disruptions in 2023, our numbers are impressive.

People

- Over 2000 library workers at over 190 locations served 1.6 million Indiana residents and 307,000 active cardholders across 69 counties.
- Over 1,100 library workers participated in Evergreen Indiana specific webinar trainings, and over 110 library workers attended the 2023 Evergreen Indiana Conference at Fort Harrison State Park completing more than 430 professional contact hours (LEUs).

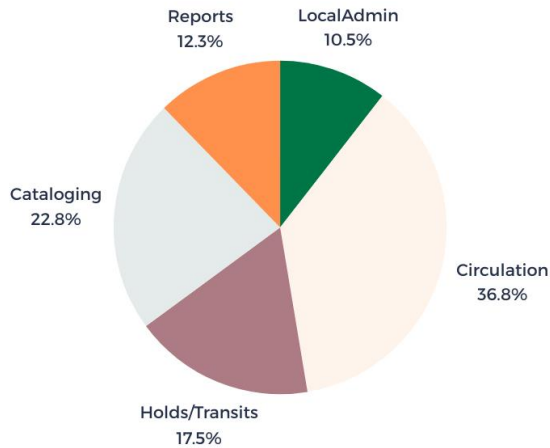
Materials

- Library users had access to 8.2 million copies of 2.9 million unique items.
- Evergreen Indiana patrons circulated items over 8.2 million times (including checkouts and renewals).
- Nearly 640,000 of those circulations were of items owned by a member library other than the patron's home library (remote circulations).
- 1.13 million items travelled around the State of Indiana as Evergreen Indiana transits.
- Patrons visited member libraries other than their own and borrowed and/or renewed items while there over 540,000 times (guest circulations).



Training

Continuing education and specialized skills training for library staff are important benefits of membership in the Evergreen Indiana Library Consortium.



2023 TOTAL PRESENTATIONS

In 2023, there were **75** webinars held for Evergreen Indiana library staff. This adds up to approx **100** hours of live webinar training.

NEW FUNDAMENTAL WEBINARS

"Searching the Catalog" and "The OPAC" were added to the list of Evergreen Indiana Fundamentals webinars.

EVERGREEN LEARN

The Basic Cataloging and Advanced Cataloging asynchronous courses were released in 2023.



Chance, the Thorntown Library Boss Cat

1.5K

LEUs received from attending live Evergreen Indiana webinars

1.1K

Total attendees across all Evergreen Indiana live webinars

2K

Views from the uploaded recordings on the Training YouTube channel

Innovation and Growth

New Members

- *Pierceton - Washington Township Public Library, Kosciusko County*
 - *Launched in November 2023*
- *Morrisson Reeves Library, Wayne County*
 - *Membership approved in November 2023*
 - *Scheduled launch of April 30, 2024*
- *Jasonville Public Library, Greene County*
 - *Library board approval to join in December 2023*
 - *Launch date TBD*

Updated Membership Fee Schedule Rolled Out

In 2023, Evergreen Indiana member libraries received graduated invoices reflecting the new Membership Fee Schedule developed by a working group of volunteers from member libraries, representatives of the Executive Committee, and consortium administrative staff from the Indiana State Library. This new schedule was approved by the Executive Committee in 2022. The purpose of the new Membership Fee Schedule is to be more responsive to library funding and increase the capacity to support current and new members, including large library systems. By implementing a percentage-based tier system tied to library annual expenditures, the new schedule is simplified and predictable. It also no longer requires an annual vote for percentage increases making the next year's fees available much earlier for budget preparation purposes.

Tier	Annual Fee		Exp Step	Implementation Fee Percentage
	Percentage	Max Exp		
1	0.000%	\$50,000	\$0	0.0000%
2	0.700%	\$300,000	\$250,000	0.1750%
3	0.725%	\$1,000,000	\$700,000	0.1813%
4	0.750%	\$5,000,000	\$4,000,000	0.1875%
5	0.800%	\$10,000,000	\$5,000,000	0.2000%
6	1.000%	\$50,000,000	\$40,000,000	0.2500%

Sustainability and Impact

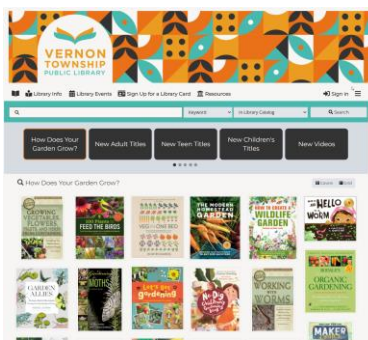
The Evergreen Indiana Library Consortium is dedicated to not only providing member libraries with a significant return on their investment. It is also committed to undertaking those tasks that allow it to promote a 21st century library experience for the individuals served by its member libraries. In 2023, two major tasks were begun in the spirit of this commitment: a new patron-focused search experience and a consortium-wide strategic planning initiative.

Patron-focused Search Experience

In 2023, after a multi-year investigation into available products, support providers, and pricing structures, the Executive Committee voted to enter a five-year contract with Equinox Open Library Initiative for the implementation and support of Aspen Discovery. Aspen Discovery is a full-featured open-source discovery system providing comprehensive access to physical and digital library resources. The implementation of Aspen Discovery for all Evergreen Indiana member libraries means that, for the first time since the launch of the consortium, libraries will have a one-stop shop for all their resources and the ability to truly customize their patrons' search experience with browse categories, digital billboards, and locally relevant design.



The general Evergreen Indiana Catalog will no longer include electronic holdings from Overdrive and Hoopla



Vernon Township Public Library with custom browse category and site branding



Otterbein Public Library designed to match library's website

Strategic Planning

Evergreen Indiana Library Consortium has historically been governed by many forward-thinking library workers serving as committee members, working group participants, and peer volunteers. Administrative support by the Indiana State Library and next-level collaboration between member libraries have enabled the service level and reputation of the consortium to continue to grow. With growth comes both opportunity and challenge. For that reason, the Executive Committee embarked on a journey to create a strategic plan for providing the most benefit and exceptional return on investment for its members in sustainable ways. In 2023, the committee voted to work with Carson Block Consulting, Inc. through a comprehensive strategic planning process to commence in 2024.

Carson Block Consulting

Technology Vision. Technology Power. Your Library.

Looking Forward

2024 marks the 16th year of the Evergreen Indiana Library Consortium. Evergreen Indiana started as an upstart group of libraries hoping to leverage the cost-savings and flexibility of an open-source library management software with a focus on resource sharing. That hope became reality, and the initial group of pilot libraries has steadily grown to over 130 library systems (over 55% of Indiana public library systems). Potential members reach out regularly for information about joining because they see and hear about the positive impact for our member libraries and the people they serve. Staff from other library consortiums using the Evergreen ILS continue to look at the many components of the structure we've built as a model for their own groups.

I started out by saying that the best is yet to come. That sometimes seems hard to believe based on how much good has already come and the many storms we have weathered together. I am, however, confident in the trajectory and the strength of Evergreen Indiana because of the diligence, commitment, and enthusiasm of our member library workers and the many patrons who have shared their excitement about being part of this consortium.

Contact Us

For further information, please reach out to coordinator@evergreenindiana.org.

The Evergreen Indiana Administrative Office is located within the Indiana State Library located at 315 West Ohio Street in Indianapolis. Our mailing address is 140 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46204

- For general information about the Evergreen Indiana Library Consortium, call 317-232-3691.
- For questions related to Evergreen ILS training, call 317-234-6624.

Find us on the web at <https://evergreenindiana.org>