



Director's Report September, 2021

New Working Groups

We've set up 2 new working groups to advise us on two projects we are working on this fall. The first is network upgrades – we'd like to make a recommendation for the next generation of firewalls and coordinate a group purchase for those libraries who are interested.

We're also working on a refresh of Enterprise. There are a number of enhancements we could make and we would like the working group to review them with us. The first meeting of this group is October 20th.

New Directors

I have completed 2 of 3 scheduled orientations for new library directors (Plainsboro and Old Bridge). Keyport is scheduled for next week. We've seen an unprecedented number of new library staff including directors over the last year. I'd like to look for other ways to make new folks feel welcome and a part of the consortium. I'm wondering if the Board, or the membership, would be interested in developing an informal mentoring program for new directors. I was thinking that perhaps Board members would want to reach out to new directors and offer to serve as a resource for them?

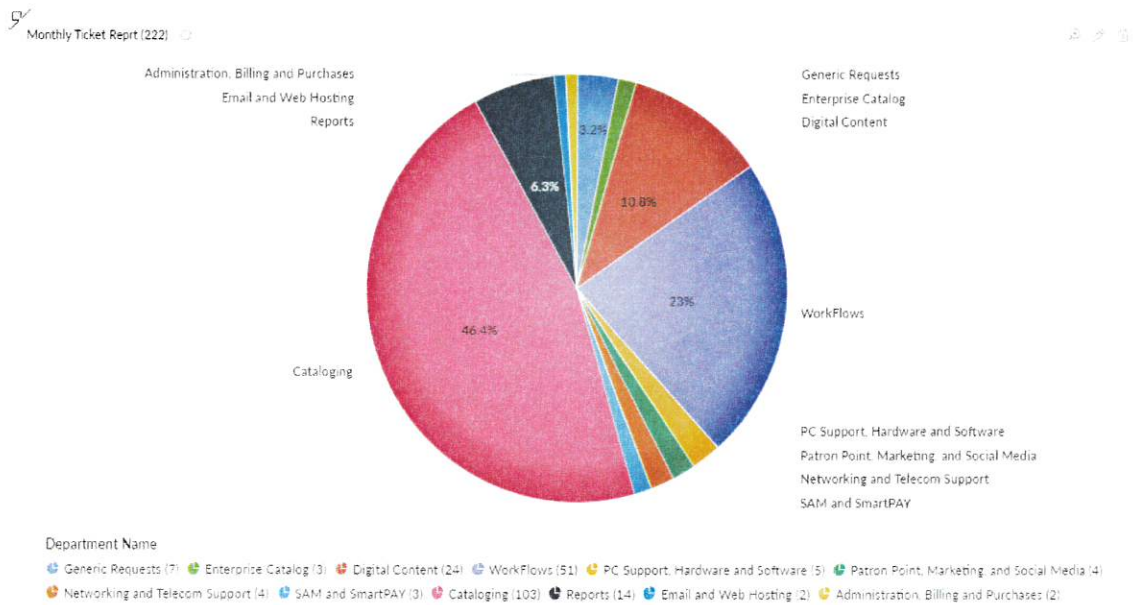
TOPCATS

TOPCATS is the group created by LLNJ during the pandemic to assist libraries in responding and to develop some agreed upon best practices. TOPCATS has been dormant the last 6 months or so. Ralph Bingham has asked me to take over as chair of this group and, after consulting with Kimberly, I agreed to do so. Next week we'll be meeting with a small group of partners and committee chairs. I'm not really sure what the future of the group is and what, if any, work remains. I think my role, unless we learn something different at the meeting, will be to wind down TOPCATS and help to memorialize what needs to be saved. We may also be looking at handing off any remaining activities to other groups. I'll know more after our meeting.

Policy on Closing Branches

Old Bridge has informed us that they do not intend to re-open the Laurence Harbor branch and asked that it be removed from their bill. We have no policy requiring notice (as we do when a library leaves) and have encountered this situation at least once before during my time here (Piscataway closing its bookmobile). I have advised Alan Kornblau of the necessity to remove all patrons and items from that library and offered our assistance in doing so. I've recommended a target date of October 31st and if that is met we can provide a credit for their branch for the 2021-2022 second quarter and beyond. The revenue loss will not impact this year's budget and I have revised our proposed budget for 2022-2023 to reflect this change.

Activity Report:



Consortium Statistics August 2021:

New items added	17057
Bib records added by LMxAC	28
New bib records added	3769
New user records added	4346
Brief records upgraded to full MARC	151
Duplicate records merged	1405
API reports and transactions	5
Authority records added	0
Authority records modified	1
SMS Hold/Overdue/bill notices	3581/826/-
App Usage – new devices/uses	729/18808
Titles/Items created by LMXSUPER vendor ON-ORDER	1591/6493

Respectfully Submitted,

Eileen M. Palmer
Executive Director