



SWAN was formed in 1974 when staff from nine public libraries located in the south suburban Chicago area formed the System Wide Automation Network (SWAN) consortium. Currently, the SWAN member is 100 libraries strong. This includes 95 public libraries, 2 college libraries, 1 elementary school district with 3 libraries, and 2 special libraries.

Join us on a journey through SWAN's history, visiting some major milestones along the way.

- Early Beginnings 1974-1979
- = 1980s Decade of Growth
- = 1990s New Technologies Emerge
- 2000s The New Millennium
- 2010s System Mergers & Independence

- 2020s Pandemic & Progress
- The Future Opportunity & Challenges

Early Beginnings 1974-1979





SWAN Headquarters, 800 Quail Ridge Dr, Westmont, IL 2020

An organization is born based on the guiding principles of resource sharing and automation.

February, 1974

An Idea Forms

27 Library Directors attend a presentation by Computer Library Services, Inc. (CLSI) at Subrban Library System (SLS).

A "Two Cluster" model presented, and it is recommended that libraries wishing to automate, purchase a cathode ray tube (CRT) as first terminal which requires manual entry of data. Second options is a "light pen" which scans bar codes.

Suburban Library System News, March 1974



SUBURBAN LIBRARY SYSTEM



COMPUTERIZED CIRCULATIO

125 Tower Drive/ Hinsdale, Illinois 60521 Telephone: (312) 325-6640 Lester L. Stoffel, Executive Director

Written and edited by Carol M. Egan March, 1974

The Computerized Central Circulation Control proposal was explained at the General Membership meeting February 1. Twenty seven libraries indicated their interest in the program by meeting with representatives from Computer Library Services, Inc. (CLSI) on February 15. At this meeting a revised paper model clusters was presented and the CLSI representatives answered several questions and clarified the fivarious computer components. For example, it was recommended after discussion that a CRT (Tube) display unit be purchased as the first terminal when a library intends to start with only prather than buying a light pen first. This would require typing abbreviated information into the program of the control of the contro

To facilitate the initial use of the computer, SLS agrees to spend several months prior to of the computer, entering title and borrower information into the computer. Such a data base buildup will ease the individual library's task of entering information into the computer and help the program to run more smoothly in those hectic beginning months.

March, 1974

Nine Libraries Automate

SLS signs contract with CLSI on behalf of the first 9 libraries to automate circulation: Alsip, Dolton, Eisenhower, Elmhurst, Harvey, Lansing, Northlake, Oak Park, and Park Forest.

The 4-year contract is \$907,000 for 25 remote terminals. SLS bankrolls pioneer libraries, securing loans on their behalf which are then paid back to SLS.

JoAnn Klene, Support Servicces Director at SLS, is the CLSI Liaison.

JoAnne Klene, 1968



September, 1974

CLSI LIBS 100 Arrives

CLSI LIBS 100 Circulation Control System arrives at SLS headquarters: 2 terminals, 2 printers (1 CRT and 1 light pen).

Description in CIC natural attar reads: "A computer is like a TW set with a transmiter

keyboard attached. A light pen is a small scanning devices that reads barcodes. A computer operates by reading zebra labels on patrons' cards and in books."

Patron registration performed at pioneer libraries then set to SLS for input into databank.

Prior to going "live" all item information was also sent to SLS for entry into databank.

Photo by Greg Lloyd http://www.computerhistory.org
An example of a light pen and CRT, 1969



January, 1975

Online Data Entry Begins at Libraries

Oak Park is the first to start, with others following on a weekly basis.

June, 1975

Online Circulation Begins

Alsip-Merrionette Park is first to go live.

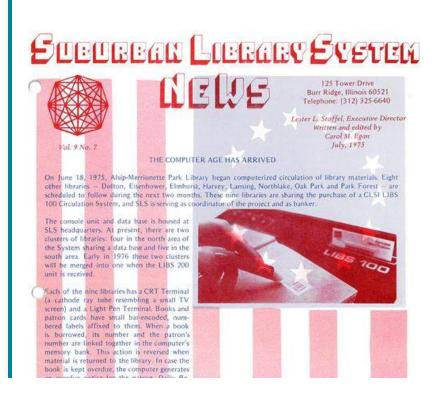
There are 2 clusters which operate separately.

North: Eisenhower, Elmhurst, Northlake, Oak Park South: Alsip, Dolton, Harvey, Lansing, Park Forest

Databank Statistics:

North: 64,997 items; 20,340 patrons South: 68,861 items; 29,261 patrons

Suburban Library System News, July 1975



ports and Monthly Statistical reports are also
a byproduct, Reserves can be placed on books in circulation, and the libraries "on-line" have access via the CRT
Terminal to each other's holdings.

March, 1976

Dial Up Access

SLS signs \$25,000 Dial-up Access contract with 3 other CLSI organizations (North Suburban Library System, Northern Illinois Library System, and the Illinois State Library) for Interlibrary Loan (ILL) purposes.

January, 1977

CLSI Midwest Users' Group Meeting held at SLS

January, 1977

Oak Lawn Joins

The Oak Lawn Public Library joined SWAN in early 1977 within the South cluster.

The Oak Law Public Library as it appeared in 1964.

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February, 1977

SLS Reports on Dial -Up Access

"... a title search takes 11 seconds, compared to 3 minutes which a search of the microfilm holdings list of the Illinois State Library takes."

March, 1977

Downers Grove and Frankfort Join

by Robin Faulkner, commissioned by the Downers Grove Friends of the Library



August, 1977

Elmwood Park Joins

Elmwood Park joins, pushing 2-cluster system past tipping point. 4 clusters are now created:

- A Eisenhower, Oak Park
- B Dolton, Frankfort, Harvey, Park forest
- C Downers Grove, Elmhurst, Northlake
- D Alsip, Lansing, Oak Lawn

All clusters must be searched separately but "...soon new equipment will allow merging of clusters – first to 2, then to 1".

Elmwood Park Public Library, c. 1976

from "A village Grows: Fifty Years of Life in Elmwood Park" by the Elmwood Park Public Library http://www.idaillinois.org/cdm/ref/collection/eppl/id/221



December, 1978

Downtime Trouble

Excessive downtime necessitates meeting with CLSI executives.

August, 1979

Illinois State Library Announces Grants

ISL announces grants for Statewide computerization.

A 3-year program provides matching funds for systems to funnel to interested libraries, up to \$1.4 million per year.

16 SLS libraries immediately apply. Consortium grows rapidly!

A look at the computer room, 1979



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With a solid start in the 1970s, the 1980s promise growth

1980s - Decade of Growth



As financial support became available through state grants and automation solutions gained stability and grew in functionality, libraries eager to collaborate and share resources continued to join SWAN.

September, 1981

Clusters A&B and C&D Merge

With expanded mainframe computer capacity, bibliographic and patron data split across four clusters was merged into two. This helped facilitate ease in expanding search within member libraries.

Intelligent Port Selector Arrives, 1981



December, 1981

Two Clusters Merge Into One

The cluster of 29 libraries agree on 16 set of loan rules. Down for 4 days to complete the merge.

Post-merge uptime is 92.5%

Loan Rule Chart, 1981

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January, 1982

Baud Rate Increases

Libraries offered opportunity to increase baud rate from 300 to 1200. Cost is either \$100 or \$1,000 depending on age of equipment.

What's baud rate? For serial ports, that means the equipment is capable of sending 300-1200 bits per second.

Computer Room, 1981





December, 1982

Downtime Trouble

Continued downtime and lost data problems plague libraries, Frustration is evident.

Direct Loans Supplied, November 1982

	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER		
Alsip-Merrionette Fark	157	130	129		
Bedford Fark	83	129	147		
Blue Island	130	152	185		
Broadview	80	62	75		
Dolton	190	155	224		
Downers Grove	184	234	235		
Bisenhowex	100	119	358		
Simburat	167	191	221		
Elmwood Park	69	70	109		
Floamoor	65	71	80		
Frankfort	63	54	56		
Grande Prairie	0	3	8		
Harvey	123	110	138		
Hinsdale	107	69	126		
Reservood	87	92	115		
La Grange	130	123	170		
Magnarood	37	35	69		
Northlake	62	50	66		
Oak Linen	645	580	816		
Oak Park	242	177	231		
Orland Park	81	64	06		
Park Forest	172	160	175		
Schiller Park	31	23	38		
Totals:	3004	2641	3857		

New 1981

July, 1983

Database Cleanup

Old sketchy data entry is recognized as problematic. database clean-up beings with MARC/MATCH project via AutoGraphics.

MARC/MATCH Project, 1983





December, 1985

New Management

Joann Klene retires; Joan Spencer becomes CLSI Manager at SLS (Suburban Library System).

Joan Spencer, c. 1986



September, 1988

Introducing SWAN

SWAN is adopted as the name for the service. Prior to this, it waas referred to as the "SLS Automated Cluster."

August, 1989

MARC Conversion Project

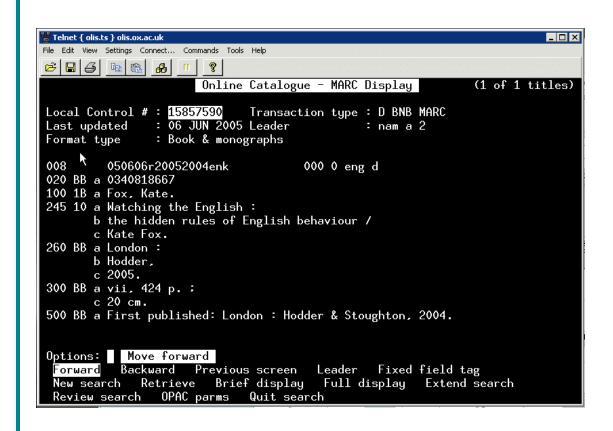
MARC conversion project begins. Campaign to delete "no item" title records.

September, 1989

Libraries Migrate to GEAC

The next generation of integrated library systems arrives. All libraries are migrated to the new platform.

Screenshot of GEAC from https://darkarcives.wordpress.com



1990s - New Technologies Emerge



Technologies, like email, transformed work. The 1990's introduced new ways of communicating and supporting library operations.

August, 1990

New Management

Diane Wilhelm begins as SWAN Manager.

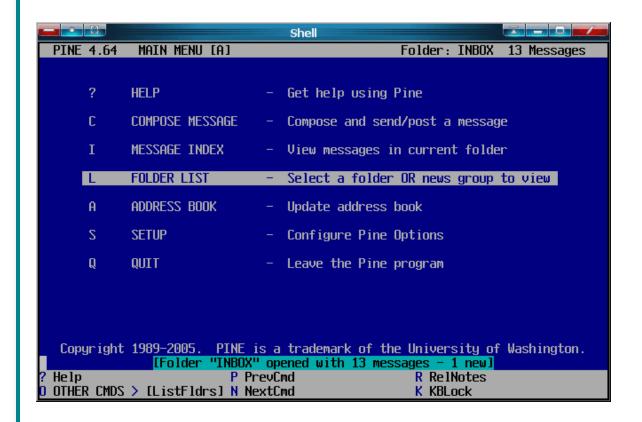
October, 1995

Email Access

First SWAN email sent to member libraries using PINE (Program for Internet News and E-mail).

"PineScreenShot" by Screencap from program output. Licensed under Fair use of copyrighted material in the context of Pin (email client) via Wikipedia –

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:PineScreenShot.png#mediaviewer/File:PineScreenShot.png

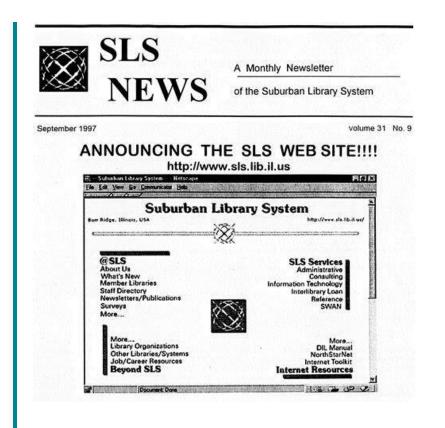


December, 1997

SLS Website Introduced

SWAN website launched via the SLS website.

SLS Newsletter, September 1997



May, 1998

SWAN Selects Innovative Interfaces, Inc.

SWAN and III sign a contract, and SWAN begins migration planning.

August, 1998 - Februrary, 1999

SWAN Migrates

SWAN migrates to Innovative Interfaces, Inc. INNOPAC software.

INNOPAC Main Menu

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Telnet 10.120.131.125

**** INNOPAC -- Copyright 1999, Innovative Interfaces Inc ***

**** MAIN MENU ****

S > SEARCH the catalog
D > Catalog DATABASE maintenance

C > CIRCULATION subsystem
M > MANAGEMENT information
L > Other LIBRARY Databases
A > ADDITIONAL system functions

X > DISCONNECT

Choose one (S,D,C,M,L,A,X)
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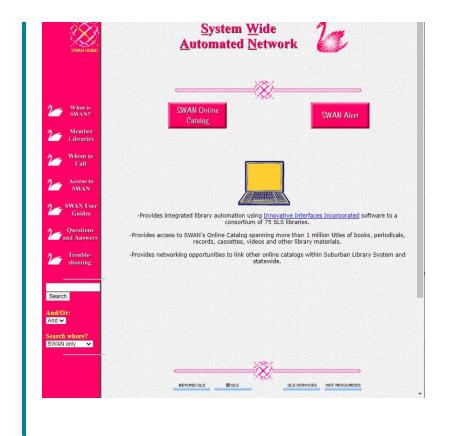
October, 1999

SWAN Introduces OPAC

Web access to SWAN online catalog launched from SLS webpage.

SWAN Catalog, 1999

Internet Archive, http://web.archive.org/web/19991001213234/http://www.sls.lib.il.us/swan/index.html



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Continue to the new millennium, the 2000s

2000s - The New Millennium



Leadership changes four times during this decade, setting the stage for SWAN's future.

March, 2000

T-1 Access

Illinois Century Network (ICN) expands T-1 line service to public libraries.

July, 2000

View Your Own Record Debuts

Public catalog allows patrons to view their own library record to see items checked out.

July, 2000

MilCirc Training Begins

First offerings of staff training on a new circulation interface, Millennium Circulation (MilCirc).

July, 2001

Database Cleanup

More database clean-up. MARC overlay begins.

May, 2003

New Management

Diane Wilhelm retires. Mark Zera becomes Director of SWAN.

by Michael Sears for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinal $\underline{http://www.jsonline.com/news/crime/42036987.html}$



April, 2004

New Management

Dean Bryan heads SWAN services.

Dean Bryan http://cuny.is/deanbryan



October, 2008

New Management

Aaron Skog becomes Director of SWAN.



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Continue to system mergers and independence, the 2010s

2010s - System Mergers & Independence



Amidst the challenging economic landscape, library systems merged and SWAN worked to become an independent entity to support member libraries. Expansive growth

October, 2010

SWAN Incorporates

SWAN becomes an independent organization.

July, 2011

System Merger

RAILS formed from merger of five regional library systems (Alliance Library System, DuPage Library System, Metropolitan Library System, North Suburban Library System, and Prairie Area Library System)

RAILS Burr Ridge



November, 2012

SWAN Researches ILS

SWAN ILS Committee formed and the search for new ILS vendor begins.

January, 2013

SWAN Retires INNOPAC

INNOPAC interface is retired.

February, 2013

New SWAN Website Launched

The new SWAN website combine support, statistics, documentation, and resources for members,

support.swanlibraries.net

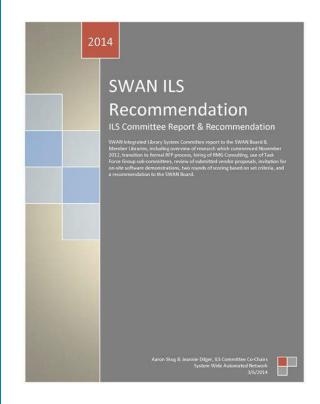


February, 2014

SWAN ILS Committee Makes Recommendation

ILS Committee makes final recommendation to SWAN Board & libraries after 15 months of research and evaluation.

SWAN ILS Recomendation Report. March 3, 2014



April, 2014

SWAN Selects SirsiDynix

SWAN signs contract with SirsiDynix as next ILS vendor. Planning and training timeline targets April 2015 as the go-live for the new system.

The SirsiDynix Team





April, 2015

SWAN Migration

SWAN migrates to new library services platform, utilizing the Symphony ILS, with 77 individual Enterprise catalog profiles with eBook integration, and an integrated search with EBSCO Discovery Services.

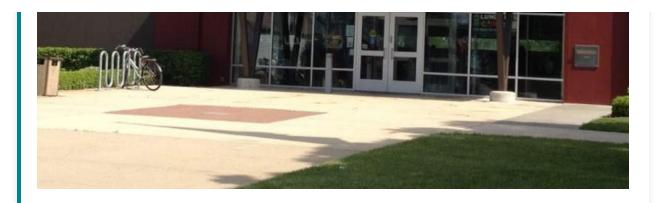
April, 2016

Lansing Public Library Joins

Lansing Public Library joins the SWAN consortium.

Lansing Public Library





May, 2016

Franklin Park Public Library District Joins

Another addition to the SWAN family, Franklin Park joins SWAN. Franklin Park Public Library District is the first library to join SWAN outside of the service area formerly part of the Suburban Library System. As the merged library system RAILS grows in territory, SWAN's potential service area increases.

Franklin Park Public Library District





December, 2016

SWAN Moves to Independent Facility

SWAN moves to 800 Quail Ridge, Westmont, IL, leaving shared space with the regional library system.

SWAN Headquarters, 800 Quail Ridge Dr, Westmont, IL

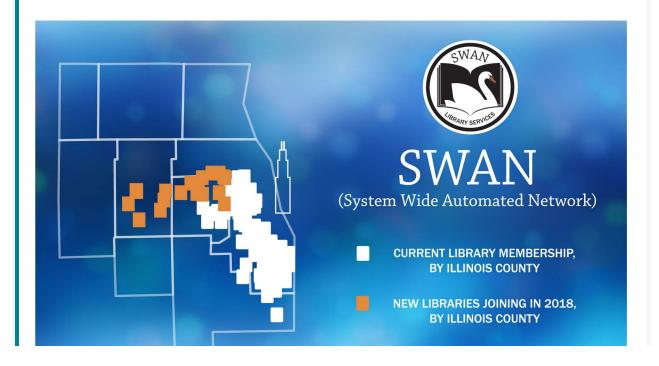


May, 2018

19 Libraries Join: SWAN Membership Grows by 20%

19 libraries from the former LINC and MAGIC consortium join SWAN on May 1, 2018. The consortium grows by 20% overnight. State funding through a \$295,000 grant from Reaching Across Illinois Library System brings together three library networks under one organization and library services platform.

Batavia Public Library District, Bensenville Community Public Library District, Bensenville Elementary
School District #2, Bloomingdale Public Library, Carol Stream Public Library, Geneva Public Library
District, Glen Ellyn Public Library, Itasca Community Library, Kaneville Public Library District, Messenger
Public Library of North Aurora, National University of Health Sciences, Oak Brook Public Library, Saint
Charles Public Library District, Sugar Grove Public Library District, Theosophical Society in America, Town
and Country Public Library District, Villa Park Public Library, West Chicago Public Library District, & Wood
Dale Public Library District



January, 2019

SWAN Moves to the Cloud

SWAN's primary library services platform and networking infrastructure moved to Microsoft Azure cloud service.

January 29, 2019

Green Hills Public Library District Joins SWAN

The Green Hills Public Library District, serving the communities of Palos Hills and Hickory Hills, joins SWAN.

Remember the polar vortex? That was go-live week!

Green Hills Public Library District





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Continue to 2020 - new challenges

2020s - Pandemic & Progress



2020 started with a crisis none of us knew quite how to handle. The COVID-19 pandemic shut down libraries and forged new ways of working together, communicating, and providing services to our communities.

March, 2020

COVID-19 Shuts Down Libraries

March 13, 2020 was the day many of the SWAN libraries shut their doors to minimize risk of COVID-19. For the next several months, SWAN hosted Fireside and Poolside Chats to keep members informed, provide shared discussion, and problem solving.

Fireside/Poolside Chats - weekly, then bi-weekly, then monthly online meetings through 2020

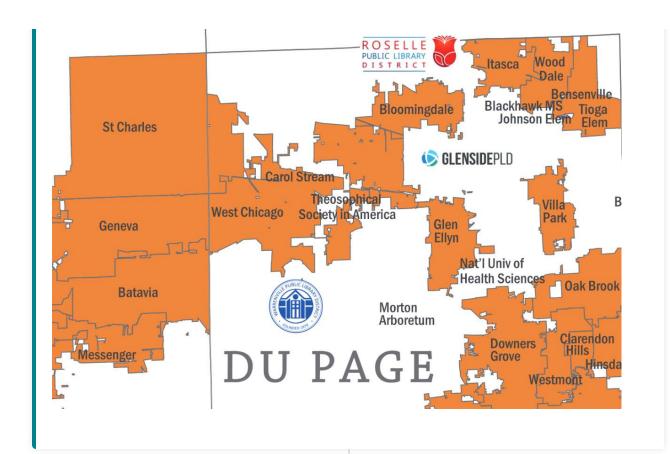


June, 2020

SWAN - 100 Libraries Strong: 3 Libraries Join

Glenside Public Library District, Roselle Public Library District, and Warrenville Public Library District officially join the SWAN membership.

Partial SWAN Membership Map showing incoming libraries, expanding coverage in Du Page county.



September, 2020

Logo Reboot

As part of reaching the milestone of 100 member libraries, SWAN introduced a logo reboot. The logo retains the familiar SWAN identity while moving away from the literal book background.

SWAN logo, 2020



December 9, 2020

Go-Live for GSD, ROD, WVD

On December 9th, 2020 Glenside Public Library District, Roselle Public Library District, and Warrenville Public Library District officially started circulation in SWAN. Though a tight timeline, switch to online training and support, and balancing library restrictions, the teams worked to make this our smoothest migration to date. Kudos to these libraries for the success.



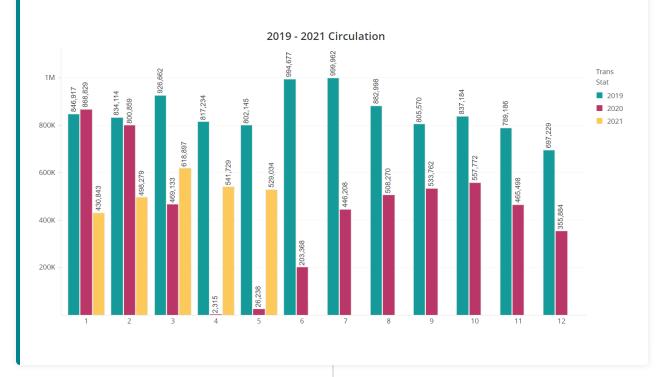
swanlibraries.net

June, 2021

Returning to a New Normal

In time to launch summer reading programs, summer 2021 showed a return to many prepandemic services, as well as continuing new services introduced in the past year. Online programs, curbside pick-up, lockers, and outreach are just a few examples.

While circulation lagged pre-pandemic levels, trends are positive.



June, 2021

Technology Independence

With the migration of the support ticketing system, support website, communication

mailing lists, and voice messaging system for notices to SWAN-supported cloud services, equipment and services previously housed and supported in the RAILS data center were decommissioned.

This milestone marked technology independence. SWAN extends gratitude to our library system partners (SLS, MLS, RAILS) through the decades.

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Test your knowledge of SWAN agency codes

The Future - Opportunity & Challenges



Priority, as defined by our strategic plan and work of member task forces, remains the patron experience. We strive to secure patron privacy while enhancing service and convenience to our patrons.



Balancing priorities, looking to the future