



Introducing the new TRACpac+

As you may know, earlier this year TRAC went to the marketplace to see what options existed for a platform that would meet the specific needs of the regions and member libraries. Many library staff were involved in extensive needs assessments, reviews and consultation about the important factors to be considered when making a decision. We want to sincerely thank everyone who was involved for taking the time, and lending their voices, to the review process. Your input was invaluable!

Today, TRAC is pleased to announce it has entered into an agreement with Innovative Interfaces for Polaris Vega Discover Consortia. This is a new way to search for library material online and offers many advantages to both library staff and patrons.

Here's what to expect with the new **TRACpac+**:

- Improved aesthetic and functionality for staff and patrons
- A modern look with intuitive searching and item record rollups
- Full eResource integration, enabling patrons to check items out within the discovery layer for ebook platforms
- Customization for individual member libraries. Each platform gives us the option to have individual URLs/sites at the system, library, or collection levels. Local collections like Library of Things will work better. There will be more visibility for local collections, as local collections can be handled in various ways, and the same rules for placing holds will apply as do in the current PAC
- Fully designed with maximum accessibility for users with print disabilities and other needs
- Self-registration option
- Multiple language options.

In addition to these functional improvements, there were several technical considerations that factored into this decision.

- TRACpac+ integrates smoothly with our current Polaris ILS
- A more seamless patron experience, less risk of downtime and glitches to be resolved after upgrades and rollouts of new features
- Reduced need for third-party software for features and functionality which reduces costs and staff time, and decreases risk of downtime and glitches
- More features and flexibility built into the discovery layer.

If you would like to learn more, please view this five-minute introductory video:

https://iii-itlc.s3.amazonaws.com/LibGuides/Training/Vega_Search/Vega_Orientation/index.html



What happens now?

The vendor will start to work with us in February on switching over to the new platform. The transition will take about seven months, during which time library staff will receive extensive training on how to use the backend, and how to assist patrons to learn the new platform. Because the front-facing platform is very visual, with intuitive navigation, it should be fairly easy for patrons to make the switch.

We are confident that staff will see many advantages to the new system, although we recognize that it is still a change, and something new. That's why we will support you every step of the way through the transition process. We intend to have a robust communication program, including updates and information that will be sent on a regular basis. During the transition, we also want to hear from you as to how it's going, and any suggestions you may have.

We know you may have questions, and so we encourage you to reach out to your region's Director at any time.

We hope you are as excited as we are to have a strong platform that delivers the best customer experience to patrons, enables best use of collections, and offers a superior look-and-feel. TRACpac+ is a significant technological improvement that will bring us up to current standards, and position us well for the future to meet the ever-evolving needs of our patrons.