



Director's Report
May 2026

Envisionware: Our first installation is happening next week, with two more quickly following. We are reaching out to any members that are using Comprise software to make sure they know their options of either moving to Envisionware or reaching out to Comprise to be migrated to their own hosted platform and billed separately to continue service for those products.

Asbury Park: We've started training Asbury Park staff on Polaris and I've done an initial welcome visit and provided Kathleen with her "New Director Orientation Packet". Additional training is scheduled for next week.

After the test load of records, we discovered a number of duplicate bibs, similar to what we experienced with our migration from SirsiDynix to Polaris. Using the same tools to identify those records for cleanup, we came up with a unique solution to reducing the number of duplicate bibs and cleanup that would be necessary after their migration.

- Encoding levels were analyzed for all the duplicate records as well as the title fields, publisher, etc.
- Asbury Park was provided a file of bib records to import and overlay onto their existing records from our database that were more complete than theirs.
- STELLA has received a file of bib records to import and overlay onto our existing records that were more complete from Asbury Park's database.

The end result is a perfect match point for 10k+ records that would have otherwise been loaded as duplicates. They've also been working on a list of items that did not have proper volume designations to reduce any formatting-related cleanup as well (eg. Vol.1 vs Vol1).

In anticipation of any remaining cleanup, I've increased the summer hours for Dahlia from June through August to work on these projects while she has time off between semesters.

We've also connected Kathleen with Ralph at LLNJ to resume and increase delivery days prior to their go-live with STELLA.

Document 26-35

A new batch of bookmarks was ordered with Asbury Park's name, and we will be shipping a stock out to member libraries that are nearby. We'll work through the remainder of our old stock when libraries request them that are located further away. We'll also be sending a welcome basket and some signage to Asbury Park for their go-live day.

As a reminder, Asbury Park will be going live on June 18th, and the following information has been shared with the membership:

June 15-17	All STELLA Libraries are offline with Polaris. In Leap Offline, Staff will be able to check materials in and out only. Staff cannot register new patrons, collect fines, place or fill holds or do any other circulation activities during the offline time.
June 15-17	Final Data load of Asbury data into STELLA database
June 17	Asbury Park data review and acceptance of data load
June 17	Vega Ingestion Process for Asbury Park data
June 18	Asbury Park and all STELLA libraries Live on Polaris

We have reached out to Hoopla and Overdrive and are planning to redirect SIP2 patron authentication from our production server to the training server during the 3-day offline period so that those services can be used. The data is slightly out of date on the training server, so new patrons added in the past 2 months won't have access during these 3 days. We're creating copy that can be used for communicating about this offline period along with graphics that can be shared on social media and your websites. We are also marking all libraries as closed within the ILS to reduce the number of items due back during this offline period. Email about this will be going out in the next day or two.

Monroe Lockers: 2 new branch locations have been added to Polaris for Monroe's lockers. You will see these appearing in drop down menus from within Leap, but they are not yet in use and are hidden from the public view until ready.

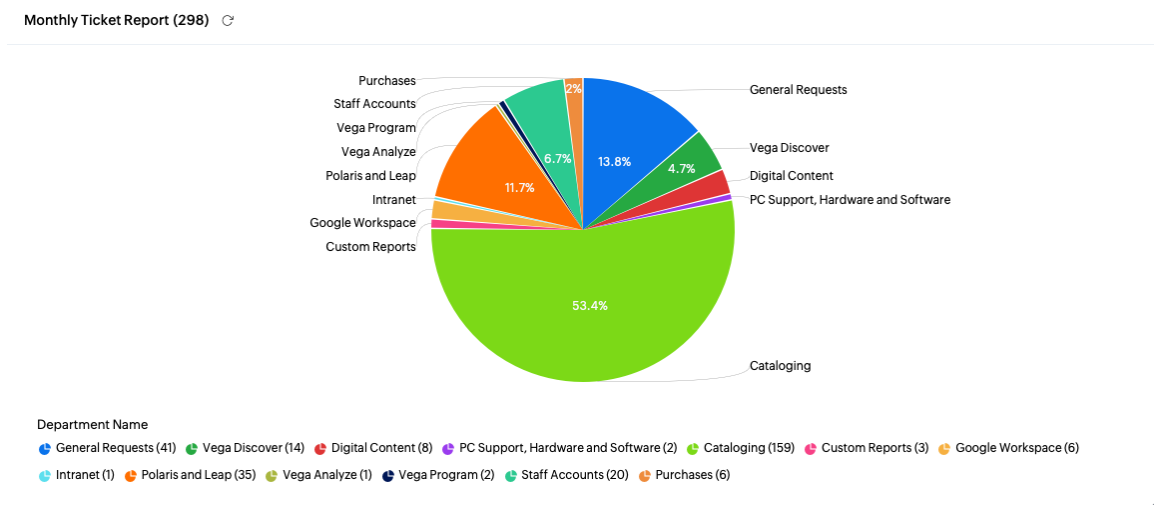
New Showcases available: Jonathan created showcases to highlight Caldecott Medal and Hugo Award-winning titles owned by our members. They are available for any library to use on their collection site, kiosk, or to embed on their own websites.

Library Locator: We are nearly done populating data for the library locator portion of our new website – we're trying to launch it as complete as possible.

STELLACon – The search for a venue: Finding a venue has been quite an adventure. Sheraton in Edison seems to be our best fit, having a ballroom space and several breakout rooms available. However, they are already booked on October 23rd, and an alternate date October 28th had a contract already written for another customer but not yet signed. Our talks with Crowne Plaza in Edison fell

apart after their newly hired event manager left and they put a pause on all new events until further notice. A visit with Union County College brought to light several problems with a college location – parking would be difficult for the number of cars during the week, their breakout rooms would be classrooms that could only hold up to 30 people, and the rooms were far from the general event space that could hold all of us for an opening session and lunch. When we contacted the Doubletree in Somerset we were told they were closing permanently in August. We likely will need to extend the date options into November but plan to sit down with Sheraton and lock something in as soon as possible.

March Help Desk Statistics – 298 tickets:



Statistical Summary Data:

	April	March	Change
Total Bib Records	1,059,706	1,068,197	-0.79%
Total Items	3,369,323	3,371,091	-0.05%
Check Outs	343,317	359,805	-4.58%
Unique Borrowers	44,223	44,621	-0.89%
Holds Placed	46,123	46,827	-1.50%
New Bibs Added	4,832	4,256	13.53%
New Items Added	12,636	13,844	-8.73%
New Patrons Added	3,704	4,492	-17.54%

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric P. Lozauskas
Executive Director