



CT State Library

Office of the State Librarian

To: Connecticut Library Community

From: Kendall F. Wiggin
State Librarian

Date: April 16, 2015

Subject: Changes to reQuest

Faced with a nearly \$100,000 reduction in funding for iCONN and reQuest this fiscal year and in each of the next two fiscal years, I have opted to maintain the current iCONN databases and replace reQuest. Consequently, reQuest will shut down on June 30, 2015 for at least two months while we bring online a new union catalog and interlibrary loan system.

I am pleased to report that the State Library, through the Division of Library Development, is partnering with Bibliomation to implement a new union catalog and Interlibrary loan system by Fall of 2015.

I realize that this will mean a disruption in service over the summer, but with your patience and understanding, we will have a new, more cost effective, resource sharing system which will allow for the savings we need to continue to provide the residents of Connecticut with high quality information resources and a robust resource sharing system.

Some of you may be asking - why aren't we fighting to restore this budget cut as well? I can only say that in this current budget climate I think the right strategy has been to focus on saving the programs that were proposed for elimination and restoring as much of that funding as possible. The decision I have made regarding reQuest will leave us less vulnerable to future increases in database costs as well as potential rescissions over the next biennium.

Let me reiterate that we are not permanently eliminating this important service. Rather, after 25 years, we are taking this opportunity to totally rethink it.

Division of Library Development staff stand ready to help you through this transition. Specific information relating to the shutdown of reQuest can be found at <http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/dld/iconninfo/changes>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

