Deliver a better staff and patron experience

Polaris is a modern, web-capable Integrated Library System (ILS) built for today's public libraries. It unifies core operations – cataloging, circulation, acquisitions, serials, inventory, and patron services – into one scalable platform.

As the foundation of Innovative's library ecosystem, Polaris integrates seamlessly with Vega modules and third-party tools, helping your library evolve without rebuilding.

Polaris empowers libraries to:

- **Streamline staff workflows** – with fewer clicks, smarter defaults, and secure browser-based staff access that supports flexible, modern work patterns without relying on desktop installations.

- **Reduce systems overhead** – through centralized, fully web-based administration, modern security controls, and simplified configuration and oversight across all branches.

- **Strengthen platform security** – with modern authentication, secure web access for staff, and centralized administrative controls that support safe operations across branches and remote environments.

- **Work from anywhere** – all core staff functions are available through a secure, browser-based interface, so teams can work on-site, in the stacks, or offsite without needing installed desktop software.

- **Deliver better patron services** – integrated eContent, intuitive catalog interfaces, timely notices, and self-service options that enhance the patron experience.

- **Grow with your library** – every Polaris release is shaped by community feedback, including enhancements delivered through the IUG Member Exclusive Enhancement Program (MEEP).

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What's new in Polaris

The December 2025 Polaris release finalizes the transition of all system administration settings into the web and introduces major improvements for administrators and technical services teams.

Web-based system administration

Manage acquisitions and serials settings, PAC configuration, vendor accounts, resource groups, and credit-card payment settings through a single, secure web interface.

Expanded technical services in the web interface

Includes bibliographic record template management, ad-hoc MARC export, automatic MARC record import from third-party vendors, and fiscal-year rollover processing.

Bulk updates for tables

Quickly update multiple configuration entries (such as patron material type loan limits or floating tables) in one action.

New configuration options

Support for display items, date-stamped patron notes, and an automatic patron-code aging process.

Log file and SQL job access

Provides read-only access to SIP, PAPI, Leap, and other log files, plus SQL jobs, giving administrators key troubleshooting tools from anywhere.

This Polaris release delivers the most complete web-based administration experience to date-combining advanced configuration, visibility, and automation.

Polaris as a foundation and ecosystem hub

Polaris serves as the core engine for the broader library platform.

It integrates seamlessly with **Vega LX**, Innovative's suite of patron-facing applications - including discovery, engagement, events, analytics, and communication tools. Together, Polaris and Vega LX create a connected ecosystem that supports modern patron experiences and unified library workflows.

Polaris also integrates with **ExpressCheck**, Innovative's self-service solution, along with a wide range of third-party systems such as eContent providers, self-check kiosks, and external discovery layers.

Core functional highlights

Circulation and fulfillment

Comprehensive tools for check-in/out, renewals, fines, and holds-plus offline operation to keep services running anywhere.

Hold requests

Flexible, configurable routing and branch-level controls ensure timely item delivery.

Cataloging and authorities

Robust MARC cataloging and authority control, fully managed through the web-based interface for complete online workflows.

Inventory control

Real-time tracking of item location, status, and ownership, with built-in tools for claims and weeding.

Acquisitions and funds management

Integrated purchasing, budgeting, and invoicing with automated workflows that reduce manual steps and improve vendor coordination.

Serials management

Simplified serial check-ins, standing orders, and claiming, fully integrated with cataloging records.

System administration and configuration

Fully web-based management of permissions, settings, configuration tables, and branches-now strengthened with bulk-edit capabilities and log-file access.

Reporting and integrations

Standard, ad-hoc, and custom reporting options, with integration support for BI tools (such as Tableau) for deeper, data-driven insights.

Polaris API

A comprehensive RESTful API connecting Polaris with Vega modules and third-party applications for full circulation, cataloging, and patron-data exchange.

Customer perspective

One of our biggest goals when choosing a new ILS was meeting the evolving needs of our public and our staff. And that is exactly what Polaris has done. Kim Bolan, Chief Operating officer at Allen County Public Library. "What I love about the Innovative team," she elaborated, "is that they really seem to care, and they want us to succeed. They're committed to getting things to work the way we need them to work specifically for our library and community."

Discover solutions at:

innovative.clarivate.com