

Modernizing library operations at scale

How STELLA (Sharing & Technology Enhancing Local Library Access) Library Consortium transitioned from legacy systems to a future-ready platform

Outgrowing legacy systems

For many library systems, technology decisions made years ago eventually become barriers to progress. STELLA Library Consortium is a network of 44 member libraries operating across more than 50 locations, each with its own operational demands and evolving patron expectations. Their previous platform, in place for nearly two decades, was no longer keeping pace with the needs of a modern, distributed library system.

“Our previous platform was outdated and lacked frequent updates. We had been using it for about 17 years,” says Eric Lozauskas, Executive Director at STELLA.

As digital engagement, program visibility, and operational coordination became more critical, the limitations of an aging system became increasingly apparent. Frequent updates, flexibility, and scalability were no longer “nice to have” — they were essential.

At the same time, managing technology across a consortium introduces additional complexity:

- Balancing centralized control with local library autonomy
- Supporting multiple locations, services, and user needs
- Ensuring consistency without limiting flexibility

Without the right platform, these challenges can slow down innovation and make even routine tasks difficult to scale.

“Consortia require flexibility and balance between independence and centralized management. Polaris provides that balance and is easier to manage than our previous system.”

Eric Lozauskas

Executive Director at STELLA

Seamless transition at scale

Recognizing the need for change, the STELLA Library Consortium made the decision to transition to Polaris. Despite the size and complexity of the organization, including the addition of new libraries during the process, the migration was executed smoothly and efficiently.

“The transition went very well, it was a quick migration that took about six months... Innovative managed to merge all of our data seamlessly,” says Eric Lozauskas.

This outcome was driven not just by technology, but by a structured and collaborative implementation approach. Dedicated project management, clear communication, and regular touchpoints ensured that all stakeholders remained aligned throughout the process.

Importantly, adoption at the staff level, often a key risk factor in system changes, was also addressed effectively.

“Polaris made training easier... and staff adapted quickly.”

The result was a transition that minimized disruption while enabling the organization to move forward

with confidence. For a consortium managing dozens of libraries, this kind of stability is critical, not just during implementation, but in setting up the foundation for long-term success.

Greater agility, visibility, and control

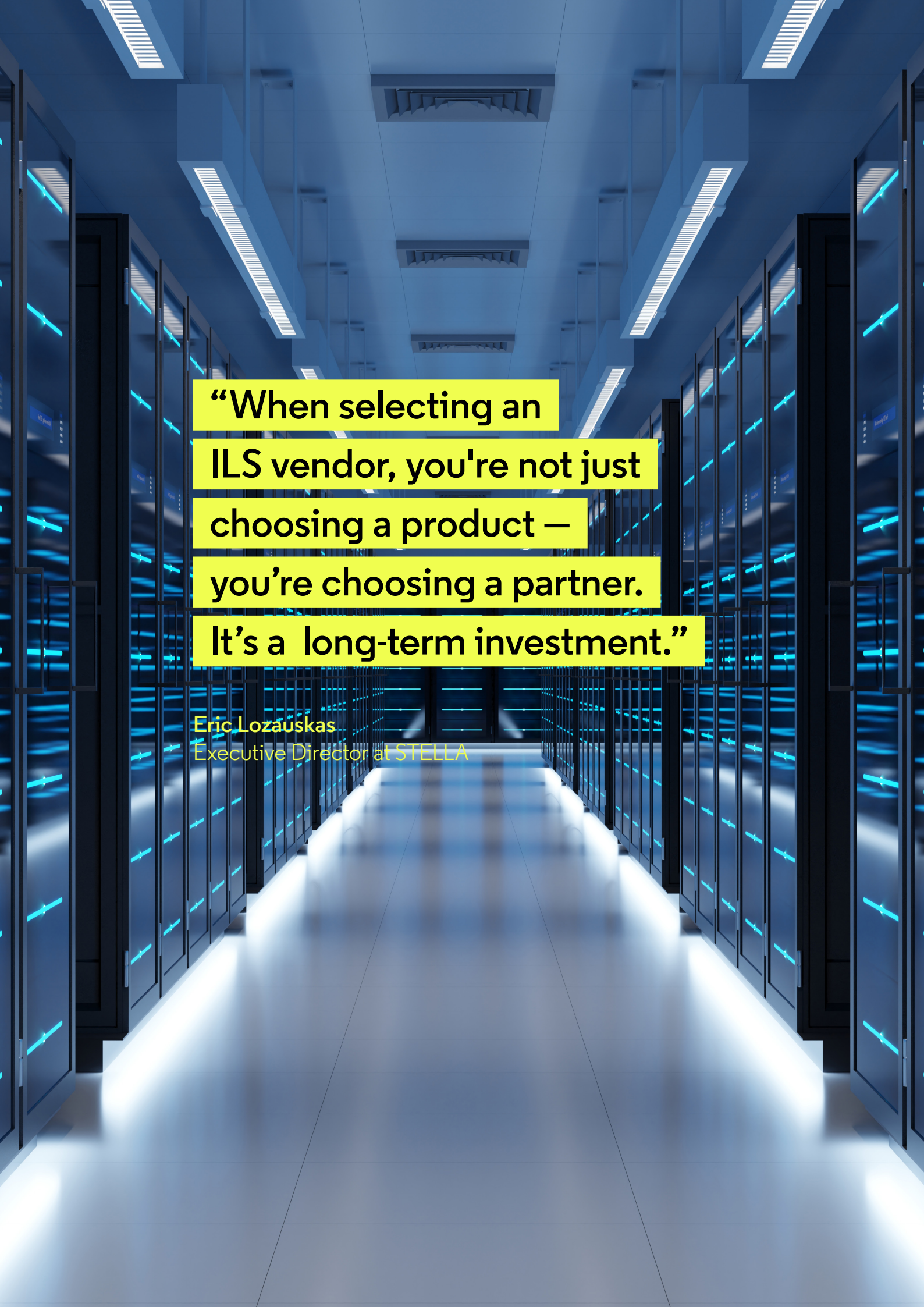
Following implementation, the consortium quickly began to realize operational improvements.

One of the most important gains was the ability to manage complexity, more effectively striking the right balance between centralized oversight and flexibility for individual libraries.

At the same time, the platform’s continuous development cycle provided reassurance that the system would continue to evolve alongside the consortium’s needs.

“Seeing regular releases and updates, especially with Vega products, shows that the platform is actively evolving.” – Eric Lozauskas.

This ongoing innovation is particularly important in a landscape where libraries are increasingly expected to deliver digital-first experiences and measurable engagement outcomes.



**“When selecting an
ILS vendor, you're not just
choosing a product —
you're choosing a partner.
It's a long-term investment.”**

Eric Lozauskas
Executive Director at STELLA



From technology vendor to true partner

Beyond operational improvements, the transition also redefined how the consortium viewed its relationship with its technology provider.

Rather than simply adopting a new system, the organization gained a partner—one that actively incorporates customer feedback and continuously invests in product development.

“The Idea Exchange allows us to submit ideas and actually see them implemented within a year, which is something we never experienced before.” – Eric Lozauskas.

This level of responsiveness creates a feedback loop where libraries are not just users of the system, but contributors to its evolution.

This perspective reflects a broader shift happening across the industry: technology decisions are no longer purely technical, they are strategic, long-term commitments that shape how libraries operate, innovate, and serve their communities.

Building a foundation for the future

For the STELLA Library Consortium, modernizing their ILS was not just about replacing an outdated system, it was about enabling a more agile, scalable, and forward-looking organization.

By successfully navigating a complex migration, improving day-to-day operations, and establishing a collaborative partnership with us as their vendor, the consortium has positioned itself to meet evolving patron expectations and organizational goals.

Modernization is not just about solving today’s challenges, it’s about creating the foundation for continuous improvement and long-term impact.

innovative.clarivate.com

©2026 Clarivate and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.