

Attachment A: NC Cardinal Bylaws

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Section 1: Name and Mission

1. The name of this organization shall be NC Cardinal. NC stands for North Carolina.
2. The purpose of NC Cardinal is to provide North Carolina residents greater access to public resources.

NC Cardinal is a partnership between the State Library of North Carolina and North Carolina public library systems. NC Cardinal uses an open-source integrated library system (ILS) to expand resource sharing and cooperative services development through a single, shared online catalog.

Section 2: Membership

Members are those eligible organizations that have submitted applications and been approved by the State Library. NC Cardinal is supported by the Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) grant program which, in turn, supports the implementation of North Carolina's current LSTA Five-Year Plan. LSTA funds are awarded to the State Library of North Carolina by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

NC Cardinal Member Libraries must agree to:

1. participate in NC Cardinal and share their bibliographic and patron databases;
2. participate in NC Cardinal decision making and abide by Governance Committee decisions;
3. participate in resource sharing and provide in-person services to all patrons of NC Cardinal libraries in the same manner as to their own patrons; and
4. allow the use of the library name in NC Cardinal official documents and informational sites.

Section 2a: Application for Membership

Prospective members may join NC Cardinal by submitting an NC Cardinal Grant Application. Applicants should understand the annual State Library of North Carolina's LSTA General Information & Provisions and the Program-Specific Information & Guidelines.

Qualifications

To be eligible for participation in NC Cardinal, public libraries must:

1. qualify for grants from the Aid to Public Libraries Fund; and
2. meet basic hardware and network speed requirements.

Approval of Application

The State Library of North Carolina may review and approve membership based upon funding and resource capacity, may refuse an application for membership, or may postpone consideration of an application for membership.

Upon approval, the applicant library must execute the NC Cardinal Memorandum of Agreement and adopt the NC Cardinal Bylaws. Failure to do so will disqualify the applicant from participation in NC Cardinal. The State Library may provide funds for the library to migrate its automated system data into NC Cardinal, to receive training in using NC Cardinal, to access the NC Cardinal services subscription, and to make other expenditures determined by the State Library to be necessary for a successful migration.

In the event that funds or program capacity are not available to support all public libraries that apply, applicants will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. expiration date of the library's automated system contract;
2. scope and complexity of the library's migration requirements; and
3. other circumstances affecting the library as determined by the State Library.

Section 2b: Membership Activation

Membership is effective on the date the NC Cardinal Memorandum of Agreement is fully executed.

Section 2c: Member Withdrawal

Prior to terminating or taking action to withdraw from NC Cardinal, the Member Library shall discuss their intentions with authorized representatives of the State Library and the NC Cardinal Governance Committee. Critical issues that the Member Library believes justify such withdrawal must be presented in written form. If discussions with the State Library and the NC Cardinal Governance Committee do not resolve the issues to the Member's reasonable satisfaction, the Member Library shall have the right to discontinue participation in NC Cardinal by giving written notice on or before December 31 to the State Library, subject to the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Agreement.

Section 2d: Effective Date of Withdrawal

The membership of a Member Library giving written notice on or before December 31 will cease on June 30 of the following year.

Section 2e: Default

A violation of any provision, policy, or requirement that is not corrected by the Member Library within sixty (60) days after written notice by the State Library will constitute default under the terms of their executed NC Cardinal Memorandum of Agreement and these Bylaws, subject to the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Agreement.

Section 2f: Electronic Balloting

At the discretion of the State Library or by a consensus vote of the Governance Committee, electronic balloting may be employed for consortium-wide votes. Notice of issues for electronic ballot must be electronically emailed to each member of the Governance Committee no less than one (1) week prior to the designated "ballot start time." Electronic balloting may proceed after approval by the Governance Committee.

Section 3: Governance Committee

The Governance Committee provides guidance to the State Library of North Carolina in terms of communications, organizational structure, review of NC Cardinal Bylaws and Memorandum of Agreement, cost sharing policies, and the approval of common, consistent policies. Powers and Authority for this committee are outlined in Section 3h, Powers and Authority.

Section 3a: Number and Composition

The Governance Committee shall consist of five (5) members from participating NC Cardinal Libraries and two (2) members from the State Library: the NC Cardinal Program Manager and a representative from the Library Development Section. Governance Committee members must be selected from the Senior Management staff of Member Libraries.

NC Cardinal Member Library representation on the Governance Committee shall be composed of:

1. one (1) member from a Municipal library;
2. one (1) member from a County library;
3. one (1) member from a Regional library; and
4. two (2) members at large.

If the requirement for a member from at least one of each library type is unable to be filled, a temporary member could be added for a one year term, until the next election of members.

Section 3b: Nomination

At least sixty (60) days prior to the NC Cardinal General Membership Meeting, the Governance Committee must appoint a Nominations Committee of two (2) or more Members who are not seeking election. The Nominations Committee is required to receive and coordinate nominations for election to the Governance Committee.

Section 3c: Election

An election of Governance Committee members must be held at an NC Cardinal General Meeting to replace those members whose terms of office have expired or will expire at the end of the meeting.

Section 3d: Terms

A term of office shall be two (2) years, to commence at the beginning of the next Quarter after the election with the exception of the first year. Following the election, an announcement of the newly elected officers will be sent to the membership promptly. Committee members may serve two (2) consecutive terms with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership. Committee appointments shall be staggered to promote consistency as well as to accommodate change.

Section 3e: Vacancies

Vacancies on the Governance Committee shall be filled by appointment by the Governance Committee until the next election of members. Appointments are for the remainder of the replaced member's term.

Section 3f: Meetings of Governance Committee

The Governance Committee shall hold at least two meetings per year, with other meetings scheduled as needed. At least thirty (30) days in advance, the General Membership shall be notified of Governance Committee meetings. Governance Committee meetings are closed, and attendance is limited to Governance Committee members, designated representatives of member library systems and invited guests.

Additional meetings may be scheduled:

1. at the request of the State Library;
2. at the request of two Governance Committee members; or
3. upon receipt of a written request signed by at least fifty (50) percent of the membership.

At least one (1) annual meeting will be held for the General Membership. Members will be notified at least thirty (30) days in advance of the annual meeting. Minutes of meetings shall be kept and distributed to the membership.

Section 3g: Attendance

It is expected that Governance Committee members will attend all meetings in person. If a Governance Committee member cannot attend a Committee meeting, the member may make advance arrangements with the NC Cardinal Program Manager and the hosting site to participate electronically, by conference call or other technology.

Governance Committee members will not send a representative to the meeting as a substitution.

If a Governance Committee member cannot actively participate in more than two (2) consecutive meetings, the member may be replaced for the duration of their term by appointment of the other members of the Governance Committee.

Section 3h: Powers and Authority

The Governance Committee shall provide counsel and support to the State Library of North Carolina and Member Libraries in the operation of NC Cardinal by:

1. recommending policy;
2. monitoring current research and trends to determine the best practices;
3. communicating to the entire membership; and
4. reviewing and discussing recommendations from other NC Cardinal Committees and providing a final recommendation.

Topics may cover a wide range of subjects, including information technology, vendor purchases, upgrades, enhancements, support, membership costs, and budget considerations.

NC Cardinal Member Libraries will act upon recommendations approved by the Governance Committee.

Section 3i: Voting

Only Governance Committee members may vote at a Governance Committee meeting. Each Governance Committee member has one (1) vote. This vote must be cast in person. Proxy representation and proxy voting are not allowed. If an elected member cannot attend a Committee meeting, the member has the option of making advance arrangements with the NC Cardinal Program Manager to participate via technology, or forfeit the right to vote at the meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote among Governance Committee members is required to pass a policy or recommendation.

Section 3j: Non-voting Members

The NC Cardinal Program Manager shall be a non-voting member.

Section 3k: Appeal Process

A Member Library(ies) may request reconsideration of a decision made by the NC Cardinal Governance Committee. A written request for reconsideration must be submitted within fourteen (14) days of the Committee decision. The appeal must include a justification for submitting the request for reconsideration, with supporting facts, and be signed by the submitting Member Library(ies). The Governance Committee will review the request for reconsideration within fourteen (14) days of submission. A written notice of action and/or decision will be distributed by the Governance Committee to the appealing Member Library(ies).

Section 3l: Removal

Should it become necessary to dissolve the Governance Committee, a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of no-confidence from the NC Cardinal membership shall dissolve the Governance Committee. Should the Governance Committee be dissolved, a nominating committee selected from the membership shall propose new candidates.

Section 4: Working Committees

Category-specific NC Cardinal task forces/committees, for example Cataloging or User Experience, will submit recommendations for approval to the Governance Committee. These recommendations will be voted upon for implementation. Voting will adhere to the procedures as outlined Section 3i of these Bylaws.

Section 4a: Creation of Working Committees

Recommendations for new committees are submitted by NC Cardinal Member Libraries directly to NC Cardinal Program Staff or the NC Cardinal Governance Committee. Requests for project- or category-specific committees will be vetted and approved by the NC Cardinal Governance Committee. Committee member nominations will be solicited from Member Library Directors. Final member selections will be determined by NC Cardinal Program Staff according to the following composition:

1. at least one (1) member from a Municipal library;
2. at least one (1) member from a County library;
3. at least one (1) member from a Regional library; and
4. other members by level of expertise in the project- or category-specific area.

If the requirement for a member from at least one of each library type is unable to be filled, a temporary member could be added for a one year term, until the next election of members.

Section 5: Amendment of Bylaws

The NC Cardinal Bylaws may be amended at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of vote of Member Libraries. Thirty (30) days prior written notice shall be given to Member Libraries of any proposed amendment. Proposed amendments may originate from the NC Cardinal membership with signatures from one-third (1/3) of the Member Libraries.

The Bylaws shall be reviewed every two (2) years by the NC Cardinal Governance Committee at the beginning of new Committee appointments. The Committee shall recommend any modifications and submit the Bylaws for review and renewal to the Member Libraries with thirty (30) days written notice for a vote to extend or rescind the agreement.

Section 6: Definitions

Library System	The organization unit as defined by the Evergreen Software, to be distinguished from branches, book mobiles, etc.
Member Library	A library system that participates in the NC Cardinal program.