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IUG 2026 Conference

Dates: April 13-15 (*Wednesday, April 15 is a full day session*) with pre-conference sessions held Sunday, April 12, 2026

Location: Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile (https://maps.app.goo.gl/

opVxYyFXU3swjkUf8)

Register for this event (https://members.innovativeusers.org/members/evr/reg_main.php?orgcode=IUG&evid=57723293)

Early bird ends: January 31, 2026

Hotel block rate (https://book.passkey.com/e/51065716): ($249 per night)

Hotel block rate ends: March 20, 2026

Conference app: *Coming soon*

More details regarding the conference below...

Registration

IUG will not call potential attendees about registration by telephone. Any potential calls are phishing/spam attempts.

Registration Important Dates:

- **Register for this event** (https://members.innovativeusers.org/members/evr/reg_main.php?orgcode=IUG&evid=57723293)
- **Early Bird Ends:** January 31, 2026

Registration Rates:

- **Early Bird: $475**
- **Regular:** $575 (February 1 - March 31, 2026)
- **Late/on-site:** $800 (April 1 - April 12, 2026)
- **Pre-conference: Six (6)** $100 full-day sessions, one (1) $50 half day session, and the Hackathon is free.
- **Single Day:**
  - **Monday:** $325 ($375 starting April 1)
  - **Tuesday:** $325 ($375 starting April 1)
  - **Wednesday:** $250 ($300 starting April 1)

Available Discounts:

- **Presenter rate: $375**
  - If you are a presenter whose presentation was accepted, check your email for a discount code BEFORE you begin registration
- **Groups of 6 or more**
  - For Main Conference April 13-15 registration

        - Per person discount of $80
        - You must register all members at the **SAME TIME**.
        - Enter the discount code **MCGROUP** at the bottom of the CONTACT page.
    - For any Single Day registration
        - Per person discount of $50
        - You must register all members at the **SAME TIME**.
        - Enter the discount code **SDGROUP** at the bottom of the CONTACT page.
    - If you are registering a group and have other discounts to apply, please email: **Kathy@innovativeusers.org** (mailto:Kathy@innovativeusers.org?subject=Group%20rate%20discount%20for%20IUG%202025)

Cancellation Policy:

- Use this form for cancellation requests and refunds (https://members.innovativeusers.org/members/form.php?orgcode=IUG&fid=9482399).
    - No phone or voicemail cancellations accepted
- $75.00 cancellation fee for **refunds requested by March 31, 2026**.
- AFTER **March 31, 2026**, refunds are 50% of total registration fee.
- All refunds processed within 20 days post-conference.

Pre-Conference Schedule

Innovative Sessions

The IUG Hackathon

An opportunity for individuals and teams to improve the system by building their own hack for prizes and bragging rights!

Open to individuals and teams working on a hack for either Polaris or Sierra. The hack can solve any problem. Hackers will have 24 hours to design and build their hack and a presentation explaining the problem being solved as well as the solution. Resources will be available during the pre-conference day to assist.

Presentations of the hacks will be made and awards given out during a happy hour at the end of Day One of the conference.

Sign-up and show-off your best cyber skills!

Accessibility Learning Lab & Workshop

Accessibility isn't just about compliance -- it's about designing every library experience so all patrons can fully participate, both in person and online. As new ADA Title II requirements take effect in April 2026, this learning lab provides practical strategies on how to further accessibility

throughout library programs, services, and digital offerings.

Drawing on real-world examples, guided discussions, and focused training, participants will learn practical strategies for building organizational capacity and integrating inclusive practices into everyday workflows. This session will highlight how meaningful progress can be achieved through collaboration and planning -- often without significant new costs.

Attendees will leave with actionable tools and skills to further accessibility across their organizations.

This workshop is suitable for all library types and staff roles, whether you are just beginning your accessibility journey or seeking to advance an existing program.

By the end of this session, you will be able to:

- Understand the standards
- Evaluate your current accessibility
- Implement practical solutions
- Measure your accessibility impact

Polaris Academy: Web Based System Administration Skills Refresher & Accelerator

Do any of these sound familiar?

- Your library has been using Polaris for years.

- You are the new Polaris administrator.

- You've always done it this way, but what were the other ways you could do it?

- All of the above!

The Polaris Academy offers a day long refresher course focused on 3 key areas of Polaris Web based administration and use:

- Technical Services Workflows
- System Administration
- Understanding and using the Polaris API (PAPI)

Sierra Academy: Technical Services - a Deep Look on Cataloging and Serials Workflows Skills Refresher & Accelerator

Do any of these sound familiar?

- Your library has been using Sierra for years.
- You are the new Sierra technical services administrator.
- You've always done it this way, but what were the other ways you could do it?
- All of the above!

The Sierra Academy offers a day long refresher course focused on two key areas of Sierra administration and use:

- Cataloging
- Serials

Vega LX Academy: Discover, Vega Mobile, Vega Interact Voice & SMS, Vega Promote, Vega Program, and LX Starter Advanced Skills Course

With the Introduction of the Vega Library Experience (LX) and its first module Vega Discover over 4 years ago, we have continued to roll out additional Vega LX modules and exciting new features for existing modules. The Vega LX Academy will review those modules currently available, and the setup and configuration of advanced features such as the Discover Homepage, Kids and Themed catalogs, optimizing patron communication across email, voice and SMS channels, integration features between Vega LX modules and much more.

This is a great opportunity to review and refresh your knowledge so that you can fine tune and super charge your Vega LX implementation!

User-led sessions

SQL Basics for Polaris: Querying Data with the Polaris Find Tool

Presenter: Matt Hammermeister, Pinnacle Library Cooperative

This hands-on workshop introduces SQL concepts specifically tailored to the Leap/Polaris Find Tool, helping users move beyond canned reports and pre-built searches to create their own customized queries. Designed for staff who regularly work with Polaris data, this session demystifies SQL by connecting basic theory with real-world examples from the Polaris database.

Participants will learn how data is structured in Polaris, how SQL statements are built, and how to use them directly within the Find Tool. Through guided exercises and examples, attendees will practice writing and refining queries to identify records, uncover data patterns, and find potential data-cleanup opportunities. By the end of the workshop, attendees will have a clearer understanding of SQL fundamentals and the confidence to use it effectively within Leap.

No prior experience with SQL is required - just familiarity with using Leap/Polaris for everyday tasks.

Note: This is an all-day, hands-on workshop, with a lunch break in the middle of the day. Attendees should bring a laptop that has access to Leap or Polaris Client.

The Great ILS-Data Preconference: Quick Lessons With Your Peers

Presenters:

- Derek Brown, Director of IT; Rochester Hills Public Library (Polaris)
- Bob Gaydos, ILS Administrator; Stark Library (Sierra)
- Jeremy Goldstein, Data Curation Librarian; Minuteman Library Network (Sierra)
- Daniel Messer, Integrated Library Systems Administrator; Library Systems & Services (Polaris)
- Wes Osborn, Executive Director; Central Library Consortium (Polaris)
- Ray Voelker, Integrated Library Systems Administrator; Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library (Sierra)
- Victor Zuniga, System Administrator; Poudre Libraries (Sierra)

Ease your way into this year's conference with our all-star assortment of IUG experts who will present a full afternoon of activities for those looking to expand their library data toolbox. Through a series of mini-talks, some speed geeking and lively conversations, attendees will have opportunities to learn about a wide range of techniques for working with both Sierra and Polaris data.

Conference Schedule

Presentation Submissions

Hotel Booking

Transport

Local Arrangements (https://innovativeusers.org/iug_2026_-_local_arrangements.php)

Exhibitors

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