I would actually recommend Atriuum by Book Systems. Reasonably priced yet a great system, easy to use, nice public interface, and wonderful support.

Nannette Miller

Elk Rapids District Library

Have you considered having them contract with you for automation service.  This is the next project we will be doing with our local school district.  We would set them up as a branch and rather than them pay a separate vendor they would pay us.  Our Polaris system has the capacity to do this and offers them a much richer service.  For instance they would be able to see what items are available in all of their schools.  Right now the individual schools are separate and they can't see records.

Just a thought you might want to consider.  Could bring some extra revenue into your library and give them a more robust system.  
Christine Lind Hage,

President, United for Libraries

Library Director, Rochester Hills Public Library  
500 Olde Towne Road  
Rochester, MI 48307-2043  
248/650-7122

*Lisa*

*I’m not familiar with the proprietary systems you identified below but we took a close look at Apollo in the course of my investigations of the ILS marketplace last year.*

*I was quite impressed and felt that, even though staying with Innovative was in our best interest, Apollo would be an excellent system for a small library.*

*We looked at Open Source systems and felt that Koha, if supported by one of its primary service vendors would be the best choice for public libraries.  I’ve worked at a large (42) school system in San Antonio and if they are structured like a small consortium Evergreen might have a bit of an edge over Koha.*

*Leo Papa*

Our library uses Destiny, and we find it very easy to use. There are certain features it doesn’t have that more advance ILS systems probably do. It is also geared towards school libraries so there are certain features it has that we simply don’t use, I am guessing your colleague might benefit from those though. I mostly run into issues with sending records to Melcat, but have always been able to find a workaround with MeLHelp. It is rather inexpensive compared to other ILS systems and we have always received good customer service when we have needed it.

Have a nice day,

Faith Wolbers

Assistant Director

Coloma Public Library

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(269) 468-3431 fax: (269) 468-8077

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**The Ashley District Library, a school & a public library, uses Destiny. It is very user friendly and easy to add books to the system. It is not entirely compatible with MEL. It does not show the status of our books on MEL.**

**Lynne**

**Ashley District Library**

Hi Lisa,

As the volunteer librarian at our church school library in Port Huron (pre-K-8), I implemented Follett Destiny in January 2015 after a server crash in the fall took out all the data on the entire school library collection. I am in the process of re-cataloging the entire library collection and love Follett Destiny. It is super easy to use from an admin perspective, cataloging and circulation, etc. and everything is saved in the cloud. The reports are awesome. The patron display offers 3 options and is a huge improvement to the previous outdated system. Lemons into lemonade.

Good luck to your colleague.

Elizabeth

**Elizabeth Madson**

Head of Adult Services

Chesterfield Township Library

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Chesterfield, MI 48051

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I find Follett easy to use for professionals, as well as students and staff (K-12).  Out tech issues have been extremely minimal.  Our problems are usually connectivity through our ISD server, but even that is rare----maybe a few times a year.

Follett provides excellent staff training, and well as great tech support.  I have never had to wait for tech support either; a human being was always on the line right away.

Of what was available in 2000, Follett was our best choice for our nine media centers.  My biggest complaint is that all the help materials are online; there is little printed and no handbook.  I am still happy with Follett overall.

I have not had experience with the other vendors mentioned, so I have no comparison.

I have worked in public libraries on Sirsi/Dynix for decades, and before that CLSI.   I have also worked with academic systems, so I have some experience with library automation.

Though I have moved to teaching music this year, I have worked with Follett/destiny for 15 years, since it was implemented in our district. (Romeo Community Schools).

I was part of the investigative team at that time, and we looked at several available systems.

One caveat---I have not used e-books on Follett, so I can't speak to that module.

I would wholeheartedly recommend Follett be considered.

Hope this helps,

    Janet

Formerly Head of Adult Services, Macomb County Library.  
Janet Awdey, MSLS, BS

K-5 Music Specialist 2014-2016

Media Specialist

Are these school libraries out of state?  If they are in our area of no Michigan you should tell them to consider our Sirsi system.  We just added Mqt Elementary school that was on Follett (?Destiny or another newer version) and we are several $100 less per year.  Also our license fees are lower for school libraries.

Suzanne Dees