FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Arrowhead Library System to Join SHARE Consortium

Milton, Wisconsin – September 5, 2017 – A much expanded catalog and a new feature-loaded online catalog interface are among the biggest changes coming to a Rock County public library near you in early 2018. Arrowhead Library System (ALS) has joined the SHARE Consortium, known simply as SHARE, and it's good news for Wisconsin bibliophiles.

Rock County and the ALS Board of Directors approved measures which made way for Arrowhead Library System to sign a system agreement with Lakeshores Library System (LLS) in July welcoming ALS into the SHARE Consortium. Besides more available titles, patrons will also see a more seamless integration of digital resources like Overdrive and Hoopla, text message notifications, better ways to track favorite authors, and a mobile app," says Steve Platteter, ALS director.

SHARE is an automation and resource-sharing partnership between public libraries, individual K-12 schools, school districts, and other agencies. Benefits to members of this consortium include cost reduction resulting in better and/or additional library services, resource sharing granting access to millions more items beyond a local library's collection, and administrative and technical support for SHARE.

The SHARE Consortium began in 2005, current members include Lakeshores Library System (2005), Kenosha County Federated Library System (2014), and Arrowhead Library System (2017).

Steve Ohs, Director of Lakeshores Library System and SHARE Administrator says, "SHARE is thrilled to welcome the member libraries of Arrowhead Library System into the consortium. When libraries engage in resource-sharing and other types of partnerships, a variety of different stakeholders benefit - as costs are lowered and service quality is improved. The member libraries of SHARE look forward to this new chapter, and are excited for the positive service outcomes the partnership will generate in our collective corner of Wisconsin."

ALS's current online catalog, RockCat, was introduced in 2007 and currently has over 750,000 item records. The process of merging the ALS catalog with SHARE has begun and is expected to be complete in early 2018. The catalog interface is, perhaps, the single biggest difference library patrons will notice. The combined online SHARE catalog will have approximately 2,150,000 items and its interface will boast improved functionality over the decade-old RockCat. Patrons can look forward to features making it easier to track what you want to read, what you have read, and to manage reserved books. "One feature we really think our library lovers are going to adore is the improved search function. Results will include titles in our digital libraries–Hoopla and Overdrive–in addition to the traditional library collection," says Tovah Anderson of ALS.

It is an exciting time for Rock County Public Libraries–come evolve with us. No library card? No problem. Visit any Rock County Library to get your free card: Beloit, Clinton, Edgerton, Evansville, Janesville, Milton and Orfordville. Present a photo ID with your current name and birthdate–like a state ID or license, and proof of your current address–like a bill – that's all it takes.

Arrowhead Library System is headquartered in Milton, WI and serves Rock County. Visit them online at www.als.lib.wi.us, on Facebook or call 608-868-2872. For more information about SHARE, visit www2.lakeshores.lib.wi.us/what-is-share.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Steve Platteter, Director (platteter.steve@als.lib.wi.us) or Tovah Anderson, Public Information Coordinator (anderson.tovah@als.lib.wi.us) at Arrowhead Library System, 608-868-2872.