



Schenectady County Public Library's Public Statement on Reciprocal Holds -August 26, 2024-

Schenectady County Public Library (SCPL) recently received notification at the same time as all other Joint Automation (JA) libraries that JA will be disabling reciprocal holds between SCPL and other JA libraries as of 08/31/2024.

What does this mean for patrons?

It means patrons will not be able to place requests on items owned by other JA libraries for pick up at SCPL through the shared catalog anymore, and patrons will not be able to place requests on items owned by SCPL for pick up at other JA libraries.

We do not agree with this decision to disrupt service and reduce access 4 months ahead of our planned exit from Joint Automation and will do everything we can to mitigate the impact of this action taken by JA and continue to provide all of the materials our patrons are requesting.

It is our belief that all parties involved have a responsibility to prioritize good library service to library users and ensure as seamless of a transition and patron experience as possible. This decision, which does not prioritize maintaining access and minimizing service disruptions, is reflective of the difference in priorities between our library and those of Joint Automation.

Unfortunately, it is only by withdrawing from Joint Automation that our library and patrons will no longer be subject to decisions like this beyond our control that negatively impact our ability to provide library service. In the meantime we are working hard to invest in and improve our collections to better serve you.

To request a title you can't find in our catalog, or can't place a hold on, please [click here](#) and we will get it for you. For more information on our withdrawal from Joint Automation, please [click here](#). We look forward to the many exciting things in store once our withdrawal from JA is complete and we can continue further improving library services.