

# Knot Notes...



QUIPU GROUP LLC  
services, products and consulting

## November 2014

Welcome to the debut issue of Knot Notes! This quarterly newsletter is designed to keep you up to date with the latest product and service updates from Quipu Group, and provide you with news, tips and customer stories that just might make your day a bit better. We promise to keep it short, lively and informative. If you'd like to unsubscribe, just click on that link at the end of the newsletter—but we hope you don't.

## FAQipu

*What's a quipu?* - A [quipu](#) is an ancient Incan database, consisting of knotted, colored cords tied to a main cord. The sequence and type of knots tied on a cord represent numerical data such as the crops grown, taxes collected, or the number of workers in a particular village. Some scholars believe that quipus also tell full stories and histories and were a replacement for the written word.

*Who's behind Quipu?* - Robert Anderson, Melissa Stockton, and Scott Stockton - the three founding partners collided while working together at UnCover and CARL Systems. Check out the complete bios on our website.

*What is that website address, again?* - Well, thanks for asking! You will find our brand-spanking new website at [www.quipugroup.com](http://www.quipugroup.com)—we're quite happy with it, and hope you find everything you need to know about our products and services there.

## WHAT'S NEW?

### It's PITS!

Attendees of the final Polaris User Group meeting in October were the first to hear about Quipu Group's newest service—[PITS](#), short for Patron Incident Tracking System. Berkley (CA) Public Library asked us to create a system that would allow the library and other city institutions to reliably report and share, in a secure environment, one time or recurring patron incidents. Their intention is to keep repeat offenders from entering city facilities once they are suspended to ensure a safe environment for their patrons and staff. PITS is equally adept at tracking theft, parking lot incidents, inappropriate bathroom behavior, and lost children. Recent news stories addressing [inebriated patrons](#) and [library arson](#) have us thinking the timing is right for PITS. Currently in beta, Quipu Group anticipates a full release in early 2015. Contact us if you'd like a demo.

**Early Holiday ePresent for CARL•X Users**

## Dates to Remember

[ALA Midwinter](#), Chicago - Jan. 30-Feb. 5, 2015

[Sparks! Ignition Grant](#) Deadline, Feb. 2, 2015

[ACRL](#), Portland, OR - Mar. 25-28, 2015

[Innovative Interfaces User Group Meeting](#), Minneapolis - Apr. 14-16, 2015

[Computers in Libraries](#), Washington, DC - Apr. 27-29, 2015

TLC has partnered with Quipu Group to make library implementation of Quipu Group's eCARD patron registration and verification service simple and efficient, with the use of updated CARL•X web-service API offerings. Using address verification and standardization, eCARD is able to grant or block registration based on address data. Users of eCARD benefit from its self-service patron registration interface, which not only allows for greater patron privacy, but also frees up library staff. Verified patrons can begin using their new account immediately. Library card registration can also be done remotely, for added patron convenience. CARL•X customers queued up to use eCARD are Los Angeles Public Library, Contra Costa County Library and the SNAP consortia. Quipu Group's eCARD service is also available for libraries running Polaris and Innovative Interfaces ILS.

### **ePASS Sweeps the West!**

Okay, maybe we are exaggerating just a bit... but when pretty much the whole state of California is using ePASS, Quipu Group's library patron museum and venue pass reservation system, locally branded as Discover and Go!, it makes us pretty darn proud. With the recent addition of Multnomah Public Library, based in Portland, Oregon, ePASS is now being used by over 41 libraries and 75 cultural organizations.

ePASS gives libraries a quick and easy way for library patrons to reserve and use passes for local cultural venues, such as museums, theaters, zoos or historical sites. The ePASS online anywhere/anytime system creates virtual passes that are made available on the desktop or via mobile web browser, eliminating the need for staff intervention or patron inconvenience that comes with handling physical passes. You can [demo it](#) for yourself on our website!

### **Sparks! Ignition Grants for Libraries from IMLS**

Looking for a way to secure additional funding for your next collaborative partnership project? A Sparks! Ignition Grant may be just the ticket. Sponsored by the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the [Sparks! Ignition Grants for Libraries](#) are a special funding opportunity within the National Leadership Grants for Libraries program. These \$10,000-\$25,000 grants encourage libraries and archives to test and evaluate specific innovations in the ways they operate and the services they provide. Sparks Grants support the deployment, testing, and evaluation of promising and groundbreaking new tools, products, services, or organizational practices which have significant potential for improvement in the ways libraries and museums serve their communities.

The application deadline is February 2, 2015, and though IMLS has not yet posted the 2015 application, there is plenty of information at the Sparks! Ignition Grants for Libraries homepage to get you started, including last year's [Grant Program Guidelines](#).

**Partner's Corner—Melissa Stockton**

I recently attended CALCON 2014, the annual Colorado Library Association conference, and shared a booth named “Consultants’ Corner” with two other Colorado-based library consultants. One of the things that surprised me a bit was the number of people that were interested in talking about what it is like to be a consultant. I thought that for the inaugural issue of Knot Notes I would run through a few of the projects in which I am currently involved.

My consulting work is very focused on library automation, primarily with libraries going through an ILS procurement or migration project. Currently I am working with four clients, all at different stages of the process. Two of these are libraries in California that are moving from a shared Horizon™ system to a shared Sierra™ (Innovative Interfaces) system. The migration project has just begun and we are now deep into project schedules and data mapping. Another California client is in the negotiations stage of the procurement process; we are hoping to have a contract ready to go to their City Council in December 2014. A third client, on the other coast in Virginia, has been working through the county layers to get their RFP finished up and ready for release in December. I recently reviewed RFP Responses for a consortium in California and now we’re moving on to the vendor demonstration phase for this group.

Finally, I’d like to tell you about a very different project I am involved with in Washington state. The goal is to select and procure the best digital record management system for the special collections of this large public library. There are a number of image and text-only databases that have been created over time, and now these locally created databases are showing their age. After going through an informal Q&A period and holding detailed online demonstrations, the list has been narrowed down to four potential vendors. With the client, I am teasing out some of the major and minor differences between the systems under consideration; the library hopes to make a decision before the end of the year.

So that’s what it is like to be a library solutions consultant!

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