BLUEcloud Circulation ("BLUEcloud Circ" or "BC Circ")

BLUEcloud Circ is the intended and eventual replacement for Workflows; it handles registering patrons, checking out items, discharging and transiting items, placing holds, and paying fines. At the moment, it is not ready for system-wide daily use, however, there are enough features in place for it to be useful to libraries in certain situations (outreach at farmer's markets, school visits, etc.)

The main features of interest in BLUEcloud Circ include:

- No software to install or keep updated. BLUEcloud Circ is accessed online on any computer, through a standard browser such as Chrome or Firefox.
- Redesigned task flow. BLUEcloud Circ integrates Workflow's Checkout, Display and Modify User, Place Holds, and Pay Bills wizards into one main screen, based off the user account. Staff can toggle almost seamlessly between checking out to a user, paying their bills, and placing holds for them, without needing to open additional wizards.
    - Likewise, on the item-side of circulation, the Item Display and Place holds wizards are closely connected. The Discharge wizard is also prominently accessible from any screen
- Redesigned patron registration. Staff can fill out a few pieces of information to quickly assign a card to a patron who wants to check out, and then move into filling out the rest of their contact information. Or, staff can fill out the entire user record before toggling back to check out items.
- Context-based search/scan: if a patron's barcode is scanned into the search box, the user is directly brought up. If something is typed into the same box, a search is done for users or items.
- Printed checkout receipt includes "You saved $$ by using the library today" information in the footer.

The main features that BLUEcloud Circ is missing:

- No "Bookdrop" function, to backdate a checked in item.
- No native duplicate checking: have to search for each user each way before registering
- No way to modify holds that have been placed, including changing pickup date, location, suspending or unsuspending the hold, or cancelling it.
- When placing a hold, the hold is required to have a "Hold Expiration Date", a policy that is not used in Winnefox
- No payment of multiple bills: While patrons bills can be viewed and paid for in BLUEcloud Circ, they have to be paid for one at a time. (This will be added in the next few months)
- No credit card payment integration
- No emailed checkout receipts
- No reports, either to run or to open and view the results
- No bill history or hold history (no "Inactive" holds/bills) for troubleshooting; no checkout history for those set to have their history saved.

While these features are missing, many of them are intended to be added into a later update; while some will be added in the immediate future, others will take longer to be released. As Workflows continues to work, there is no immediate push to use replace it with BLUEcloud Circ; we can wait until some of the missing features have been added. However, in the cases when the missing features wouldn't be required, there's also no reason *not* to make use of it's new and updated features.

Comparison with MobileCirc:

Because BLUEcloud Circ doesn't require software to use, it can be used on any laptop, at any location, that has WiFi access. This "use anywhere" ability means that it has similarities with MobileCirc, though both have distinct differences and places where they are stronger. Which you should use will depend on your unique circumstances and a balance of these tradeoffs.

- o BLUEcloud Circulation doesn't require a library-specific device; once you know the URL and have a login, you can use any computer, any network, to use BLUEcloud Circ. For security reasons, MobileCirc requires activation of the app by Winnefox staff, on a device used only by library staff.
- o BLUEcloud Circ doesn't have an offline mode. MobileCirc can checkout books while offline, and also has a Kiosk mode to potentially allow for patron self-checkout
- o BLUEcloud Circ has a much smoother process to register and edit patrons than MobileCirc.
- o MobileCirc creates hold pull lists and weeding lists natively
- o MobileCirc can email receipts; BLUEcloud Circ can only print a physical copy of a receipt (though with "savings footer").