

Options for library groups

Project Outcome offers library groups two different options for survey management and coordination: group accounts and merged systems.

Group accounts

Group accounts allow you to monitor your member libraries' survey activity and schedule group surveys. You can view a list of members, their registration and subscription statuses, and reports from libraries that have fielded the survey on their own. When you schedule a group survey, you collect data from all your libraries' patrons through a coordinated fielding period. Afterwards, you'll have access to aggregate data and reports, and your libraries can download individual library reports. You might choose this account option if your libraries share some resources – such as an online catalog – but each library has their own budget.

Important note: If libraries within your group want to receive library-specific reports from the group survey, those libraries must register for Project Outcome and activate the survey portal **BEFORE** the group fielding period ends.

Merged systems

Merged system subscriptions allow libraries to simply join together, with one library or library organization acting as the system organizer and the other libraries considered branches or outlets. At the end of the survey, you will receive aggregated reports and data. Libraries that become part of the merged system will not receive individual reports, but the library locations will be included in the dataset. You might choose this option if you have several smaller libraries that share many resources, such as a website and IT staff.

Differences between a group account and merged system

	Group account	Merged system
Summary	Administer group surveys on behalf of members	Functions as a library system
Libraries can run surveys independently from the group	X	
Member libraries cannot run surveys independent from group		X
Library organizations can coordinate group surveys	X	X
Group receives aggregated reports and data	X	X
Group has access to member reports and data	X	
Member libraries have access to own reports and data	X	