1. Not a question, sharing Daniel Messer's SQL GitHub repository URL: <https://gitlab.com/cyberpunklibrarian/useful-polaris-sql/-/tree/master/>
2. For people who use SSRS, do you use the pre-made Polaris reports or create your own?

* Most people used a mix. In addition to completely original reports, some had “custom” reports that were just tweaked version of the canned report.
* WCCLS have created our own custom reports, sometimes based on the Polaris Reports with modifications, notices are modified but access is from the Polaris Toolbar; for other reports we use BI LaunchPad
* We have a mix of both, and some people love the subscriptions arriving in their email.

1. What are your strategies for learning the meaning of data fields that are giving you data that doesn't make sense?

* The Polaris Database Repository (.chm file) can be downloaded from the Supportal (or ask your site manager) and provides a great conrtext explanation of the tables in the Polaris database.
* ViewTransactions table provides a completely description of possible subtransactions for a transaction type.
* If you have a transaction where a piece of data doesn’t make sense to you, try comparing the aberrant transaction with a “normal” one. Compare all subtype data as well in order to identify any possible sources of the unexpected behavior/data.

1. What's the best way to tap the SQL collective if I need a report and can't figure out how to get at the info? IUG site or something else? It doesn't seem like all the info is making its way into a single space. I appreciate the github. Maybe post everything there that's already been done?

The resources hyped during the forum were:

* <https://gitlab.com/cyberpunklibrarian/useful-polaris-sql/-/tree/master/>
* IUG Clearinghouse: <https://www.innovativeusers.org/forum/all-categories/59-clearing-house-repository>
* III Supportal Forums: <https://iii.rightanswers.com/portal/ss/?tabname=community&communityID=4>
* IUG Discord (sql-polaris channel): <https://discord.gg/HwZVjN5wAn>
* Site manager is a good potential resource as well.

1. What is SSRS?

* SQL Server Reporting Services. A product from Microsoft included with your SQL license (purchased in order to use Polaris). Powers the reports available in the desktop client, but provides a lot more functionality if accessed via the web directly (including the ability to subscribe to reports and have them sent to you via email automatically).

1. I'm still in the process of learning SQL. Would love to know any resources and/or must-know queries people use.

* Ya know, I have a few things in my archive from a Polaris SQL Class I took a while back. I'd say at least 98% of that info is still good. I'll add it to the GitLab repo today if I can find it.
* Check out Daniel Messer's repository. I learned so much from his queries.
* If you have access to LinkedIn Learning (formerly Lynda), they've got some decent SQL classes too.
* Get the database chm (charm) files off of the Supportal to have a quick reference for the Polaris tables and fields
* w3schools.com is also a quick reference for me for general SQL
* I've found it is helpful to memorize common sets of joins that come up over and over, e.g. bibrecords to bibtags to subfields. And just get familiar with the tables that you need frequently, like the various patron tables, notification tables, hold tables, etc.
* Test the logic of your selects, check counts are as expected etc to avoid bad joins
* There are a couple books by Itzik Ben-Gan that I find helpful, esp. "T-SQL Fundamentals"
* Google has been my best friend for general SQL techniques. Polaris is based on Microsoft SQL so the specific sql dialect is t-sql (transact-sql). So I could google something like "format date t-sql"
* You can also get the SimplyReports sql on the report results preview page if you use "view source" on the browser

1. What is a hindered holds report?

* Shows a list of holds where there is an issue (can be various reasons). Trevor @ MAIN Libraries (NJ) showed his report (also available in the Messer GitHub, now). Robin Dye at Kitsap also showed their report (they paid Innovative for the custom report and find it very useful and it has a lot of formatting).

1. Is anyone using PowerBI or OracleBI for analysis/sharing?

* Only one library of a consortia used PowerBI, no one else used.
* Other data visualization tools might be Tablaeu and Google Data Studio
* Instead of providing a direct connection, might run reports as data dumps and import those to the service
* Shared hosted customers probably would not be able to set up a direct connection, but the data dump reports should still be an option

1. Does anyone use Azure Studio?

* A couple people in the forum did. Seemed mostly because it was easier to use in non-Windows environments.
* It’s free!

1. App to run SSMS on an iOS Device is: SQl Server / MS SQL by SQL Pro 4+

* https://apps.apple.com/us/app/sql-server-mssql-by-sqlpro/id1176218536