Cache and Release: Capturing and Using Sierra's Temporary SQL Data Ray Voelker https://github.com/rayvoelker/2019-iug





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IUC2019 4.411.

**Phoenix**, AZ

# QUICK BACKGROUND

- Sierra's Direct SQL Access feature allows us to:
  - Quickly and efficiently target and extract real-time data from the Sierra ILS.
  - Organize data in logical and useful ways

# QUICK BACKGROUND (CONT.)

- Why save / preserve data from Sierra?
  - 1. Data transformations and integrations for specific use cases
    - wikipedia.org/wiki/Data\_transformation wikipedia.org/wiki/Data\_integration
    - For example, adding geocoding information to patron address data:

wikipedia.org/wiki/Geocoding

# QUICK BACKGROUND (CONT.)

- Why save / preserve data from Sierra? (cont.)
  2. Cache Sierra data:
  - For use in an application instead of running an "expensive query" to deliver content
  - For use in an application where holding onto data which may otherwise be destroyed or transformed by the Sierra application itself

# UNDERSTANDING SIERRA'S DATABASE VIEWS AND DATA

• Some data in Sierra stays more static (think of a "receipt", or log of transactions)

#### circ\_trans

Each row of circ\_trans contains information about a circulation transaction.

Column	Data Type	Not NULL?	Comment
id	int	false	System-generated sequential ID.
transaction_gmt	timestamptz	false	Transaction date in UNIX format.
application_name	varchar	false	<ul> <li>The name of the program that generated the transaction. Valid program names are:</li> <li>circ (includes transactions made using PC Circ)</li> <li>circa (for transactions written by selfcheckwebserver and in house use [transaction codes 'u' and 's'], which use webpac to execute transactions.)</li> <li>milcirc</li> <li>milmyselfcheck</li> <li>readreq</li> <li>selfcheck</li> </ul>
source_code	varchar	false	The transaction source. Possible values are: • local • INN-Reach • ILL
op_code	varchar	false	Type of transaction:
			o = i = checkin

#### UNDERSTANDING SIERRA'S DATABASE VIEWS AND DATA (CONT.)

- Circulation transactions are created in the database table and remain static
- Rows are deleted from the table after a certain period of time (2 weeks is the default, but this can be extended by iii upon request)

# -- get some info about our circ\_trans dates SELECT NOW()::TIMESTAMP WITH TIME ZONE as now\_gmt, MAX(c.transaction\_gmt)::TIMESTAMP WITH TIME ZONE AS max, MIN(c.transaction\_gmt)::TIMESTAMP WITH TIME ZONE AS min, AGE(MIN(c.transaction\_gmt)) AS earliest\_transaction\_age

#### FROM

sierra view.circ trans as c

	now_gmt timestamp with time zone	2	min_circ_gmt timestamp with time zone	earliest_transaction_age interval	
1	2019-04-10 08:37:03.856585-04	2019-04-10 08:36:38-04	2019-03-26 21:43:24-04	14 days 02:16:36	

#### UNDERSTANDING SIERRA'S DATABASE VIEWS AND DATA (CONT.)

 Other data is more variable or is a direct representation that describes a particular state of a record or process in the ILS.

#### hold

Each row of hold describes a bibliographic, item, or volume hold.

Column	Data Type	Not NULL?	Comment
id	bigint	false	System-generated sequential ID.
patron_record_id	bigint	false	Foreign key to patron_record.
record_id	bigint	false	Foreign key to record.
placed_gmt	timestamp	false	Date the hold was placed.
is_frozen	boolean	false	Specifies whether the hold is frozen (suspended).
delay_days	int	false	Stores the "not wanted before" date as a number of days after the date the hold was placed. The maximum value is "180". If a "not wanted before" date was not specified, the value is '0'.
location_code	varchar	false	For bib or volume-level holds, the branch location from which to fill the hold, if the hold is set for 'Limit to Location'. Does not apply to item-level holds (blank).
expires_gmt	timestamp	false	"Not needed after" date.
status	char	false	Hold status.

### UNDERSTANDING SIERRA'S DATABASE VIEWS AND DATA (CONT.)

- The state of the hold is defined in the Sierra database
- Data changes depending on the state or status of the hold, and is then removed from the database when the hold is deleted, filled or expires

```
-- this will select Ray Voelker's hold information from the
-- Sierra SQL database
SELECT
h.id,
h.patron_record_id,
h.record_id,
h.status,
h.pickup_location_code
FROM
sierra_view.hold as h
```

h.patron record id = 481038535591;

WHERE

	id patron_record_id bigint bigint				pickup_location_code character varying(5)	
1	37661683	481038535591	450975488540	b	1	
2	37332240	481038535591	420910217875	0	1	

l checkout the item, and the hold data goes away after a second query.

	id bigint	patron_record_id bigint			pickup_location_code character varying(5)
1	37332240	481038535591	420910217875	0	1

- No shortage of options!
  - pgAdmin is a popular choice for a desktop client www.pgadmin.org
  - "Execute query, write result to file"
     Creates a .csv file from the results

		Query - iii	on xrvoelke@sierra	a-db.cincinnatilibrary.org:103	32 *		_ 0 ×
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r	r.record_num as	s bib_record_num	n,				
r	r.deletion_date	e_gmt,					
	r.creation_date						
l r	r.record_last_u	.pdated_gmt					
	FROM						
S	sierra_view.red	cord_metadata as	sr				
	WHERE	code    r.campus	a cada - thi				
			(NOW() - INTERVA	L L day ) DATE			
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OK.

Unix Ln 7, Col 1, Ch 131

30 rows. 6.4 s...

- Many programming languages provide access to PostgreSQL via their libraries:
  - php-pgsql: PHP PostgreSQL driver www.php.net/manual/en/book.pgsql.php
  - psycopg2: Python PostgreSQL adapter initd.org/psycopg/docs/

My method consists of the following overview:
 1. Use Python to connect to Sierra's database
 2. Issue SQL statement on Sierra's database to target and compile the data for extraction

- My method consists of the following overview (cont.):
  - 3. Export result data to either a .csv file, and/or directly into a SQLite database
    - .csv files are easy to later load into an SQLite database, spreadsheet, or other data warehouse tool

SQLite Database: sqlite.org

"SQLite is a C-language library that implements a small, fast, self-contained, high-reliability, full-featured, SQL database engine."

SQLite Database (cont.)

- SQLite database engine is a great tool for caching data:
  - 1. Stores and organizes large amounts of data quickly and efficiently
  - You don't have to set up and maintain a server (data is portable; entire database is contained in a single, cross-platform file)

SQLite Database (cont.)

- 3. Ability and flexibility to build SQL queries and applications that directly use the data that you've collected
- 4. Has a useful desktop tool: sqlitebrowser.org
- 5. It's included in the Python Standard Library!

# Python sample code to create database, # create a table, and then insert some data # note: sqlite3 is part of the Python Standard Library import sqlite3

```
# create the database
conn = sqlite3.connect('example.db')
cursor = conn.cursor()
```

```
# create the table
cursor.execute("""CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS `data`
   ( `id` INTEGER PRIMARY KEY AUTOINCREMENT,
   `input` TEXT )""")
```

```
# commit and close the connection
conn.commit()
conn.close()
```

# **EXAMPLES:**

## 1. Collection Analysis / Circulation Data Analysis

 intended for use with the CollectionHQ service, but can be adapted for local use

## 2. Patron Savings Calculator

 intended to display information on the Encore patron account information page about how much money has been "saved" by using the library

## EXAMPLES: (CONT.)

- 3. Hold Shelf Delivery Matrix Report
  - intended to produce a spreadsheet report of items for hold shelf locations (ready for patron pickup) and from where they originated
- 4. Mapping Geo Data from Patron Address Data and Circulation Transaction Data
  - intended to take geocoded patron address data and produce a visualization by plotting it on a map

# **EXAMPLE 1**

# COLLECTION ANALYSIS / CIRCULATION DATA ANALYSIS

- github.com/plch/collection-analysis
- This application was built for the purpose of <u>automatically</u> preserving and sending data from the Sierra database to the CollectionHQ service via FTP

- Three main groups of data are targeted for export:
  - 1. Bibliographic Record Data: temp\_table-bib\_data.sql

Fields exported include: bib record number, control numbers (var fields tagged 'o'), isbn, call numbers, and a few other metadata fields related to the bib record

- Three main groups of data are targeted for export: (cont.)
  - 2. Item Record Data:
    - temp\_table-item\_data.sql

Fields exported include: item record number, bib record number, circulation information, price, and a few other metadata fields related to the item record

- Three main groups of data are targeted for export: (cont.)
  - 3. Hold Data:
    - temp\_table-hold\_data.sql

Weekly snapshot of bib-level holds. It is organized by title (bib record number), and then each title has a list of holds with related metadata for each hold (patron number, pickup location, created date, expiration date, etc)

- Overview of the process:
  - Create and open .csv files to hold data output and/or open local database (if it's useful to place data into local SQLite database)
  - 2. Connect to remote Sierra database, and create the temporary tables that will be used for exporting

- Overview of the process (cont.):
  - 3. Generate data output from the Sierra database temporary tables, and write the output to a .csv file and/or to a local SQLite database
  - 4. Send data via FTP
- full export script can be found in the public github repository for this project

# **EXAMPLE 2**

## PATRON SAVINGS CALCULATOR

- github.com/plch/patron-savings-calculator
- This application was designed to work with the iii discovery layer Encore's account detail page, to display how much a patron has "saved" by borrowing from the library

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- Cached "savings" information is based on the patron record number and can be output in multiple formats (based on this application's custom URL endpoints):
  - JSON

/api/v1/patron\_savings/2198439

```
"count_titles": 118,
"min_date_epoch": 1534957500,
"patron_record_num": 2198439,
"total_savings": 2109.2799999999999
```

- Cached "savings" information is based on the patron record number and can be output in multiple formats (based on this application's custom URL endpoints):
  - PNG

/api/v1/patron\_savings/img/2198439

- Cached "savings" information is based on the patron record number and can be output in multiple formats (based on this application's custom URL endpoints):
  - PNG

/api/v1/patron\_savings/img/2198439

By using The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, you have saved approximatly \$2109.28 Since 08/22/2018 Cha-ching!!!

- About this very simple RESTful API
  - Written as a Python / Flask application:
    - github.com/plch/patron-savingscalculator/blob/master/app.py
    - www.palletsprojects.com/p/flask

- About this very simple RESTful API (cont)
  - Hosted on an Apache Web Server via the WSGI module
  - A good tutorial on how this can be set up can be found here:

www.digitalocean.com/community/tutorials/howto-deploy-a-flask-application-on-an-ubuntu-vps

- About this very simple RESTful API (cont)
  - Draws data from the SQLite database that has been caching relevant data
  - SQLite database, `patron\_savings.db` is updated frequently (every 5 minutes) via a Python update script:
    - github.com/plch/patron-savings-
    - calculator/blob/master/update.py

About the `update.py` script :

- Script starts by looking at the last entry it received from the Sierra database
- A query is constructed to extract relevant data from the Sierra database that is more recent than that last entry in the local database
- The local database is updated with the fresh data from the Sierra database

A note about privacy / protection / obfuscation of this data:

- No title information is saved in the local database, other than a hashed bib record id
- Hashed bib record id is stored to avoid duplicating the price information when a title is checked out multiple times, and to differentiate titles from one another in the local database

A note about obfuscation with this data (cont.):

- No patron information, other than the patron record number, is stored in the local database
- Only price and number of titles checked out are surfaced via the RESTful API

# EXAMPLE 3

## HOLD SHELF DELIVERY MATRIX REPORT

- github.com/plch/plch-holds-shelf
- The purpose of this application is to create a spreadsheet that displays items delivered to a hold shelf location, and from what location they came

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## HOLD SHELF DELIVERY MATRIX REPORT (CONT.) SELECT FROM `sierra\_view.hold` WHERE `status` =

code	definition
"b"	Bib hold ready for pickup
"j"	Volume hold ready for pickup
"i"	Item hold ready for pickup

- Source location:
  - `checkin\_statistics\_group\_code\_num` found in `sierra\_view.item\_record` table view

- Destination location:
  - `pickup\_location\_code` found in `sierra\_view.hold`

- Note: the source value of `location\_code` comes from
  - `sierra\_view.statistic\_group\_myuser` using `checkin\_statistics\_group\_code\_num` effectively giving us the pickup location from the stat group code num

- Do not insert duplicate rows of hold data...
  - We could build a complicated set of comparisons of the remotely selected data to our local data ...
  - Or, we could let the databases do all the work!
  - Create a hash of the entire hold row, use that value as the unique primary key in the local database table

## HOLD SHELF DELIVERY MATRIX REPORT (CONT.) Local SQLite table creation (simplified)

-- local SQLite table creation (simplified) ... CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS "data" ( `hash\_row` TEXT UNIQUE PRIMARY KEY -- more columns created below ...

);

#### Remote Sierra database query (simplified)

```
-- remote Sierra database query (simplified) ..
SELECT
MD5(CAST((h.*) AS TEXT)) AS hash_row
-- more columns of data selected below
FROM
sierra_view.hold AS h
WHERE
h.status IN(
               'b', 'j', 'i'
);
```

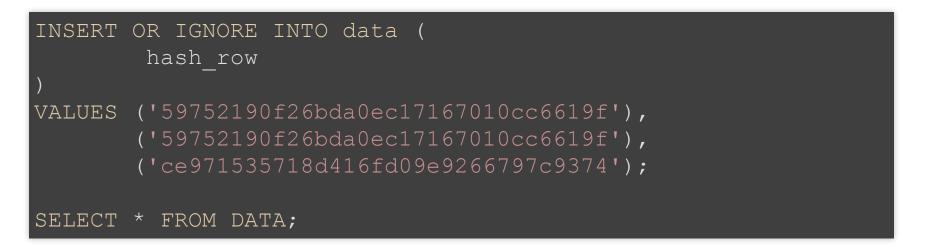
## HOLD SHELF DELIVERY MATRIX REPORT (CONT.) Remote Sierra database query (simplified) output:

	hash_row
	text
1	59752190f26bda0ec17167010cc6619f
2	ce971535718d416fd09e9266797c9374
3	d190eedbd12bdb434f6eaf8fdaa9c2a5
4	dc2befd5f6c9e356ef4f7d0885775a55
5	21915024b2b26de216edd6f6a9fc572a
C	offeranceseeners and an

## HOLD SHELF DELIVERY MATRIX REPORT (CONT.) Local SQLite table inserting the retrieved data (simplified):

INSERT	OR IGNORE INTO data ( hash_row
) VALUES	<pre>('59752190f26bda0ec17167010cc6619f'), ('59752190f26bda0ec17167010cc6619f'), ('ce971535718d416fd09e9266797c9374');</pre>
SELECT	* FROM DATA;

## HOLD SHELF DELIVERY MATRIX REPORT (CONT.) Local SQLite table inserting the retrieved data (simplified):



hash\_row

1 59752190f26bda0ec17167010cc6619f

2 ce971535718d416fd09e9266797c9374

- Overview of the process: (this should look familiar)
   1. Connect to our local database, and create table if it doesn't exist. Also, establish connection to the remote Sierra database
  - 2. Query the Sierra 'hold' table for rows that have status of 'i', 'j', or 'b'; this indicates that there is a item hold, volume hold, or bib hold ready for pickup

- Overview of the process: (cont.)
  - 3. Insert retrieved rows (or ignore duplicate rows as explained previously) to the local SQLite database, then close all connections
  - Set the update of local data to happen frequently (every 5 minutes via CRON is a good method for doing this)

Exporting / Producing the report

 Query the local SQLite database, then export the results to a .csv file:
 github.com/plch/plch-holds shelf/blob/master/export\_csv.sh
 github.com/plch/plch-holds shelf/blob/master/export.sql

Exporting / Producing the report (cont.)
 2. Import the .csv file into LibreOffice Calc (or Excel) and perform a pivot on the data:

#### • Exporting / Producing the report (cont.)

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#### • Exporting / Producing the report (cont.)

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#### • Exporting / Producing the report (cont.)

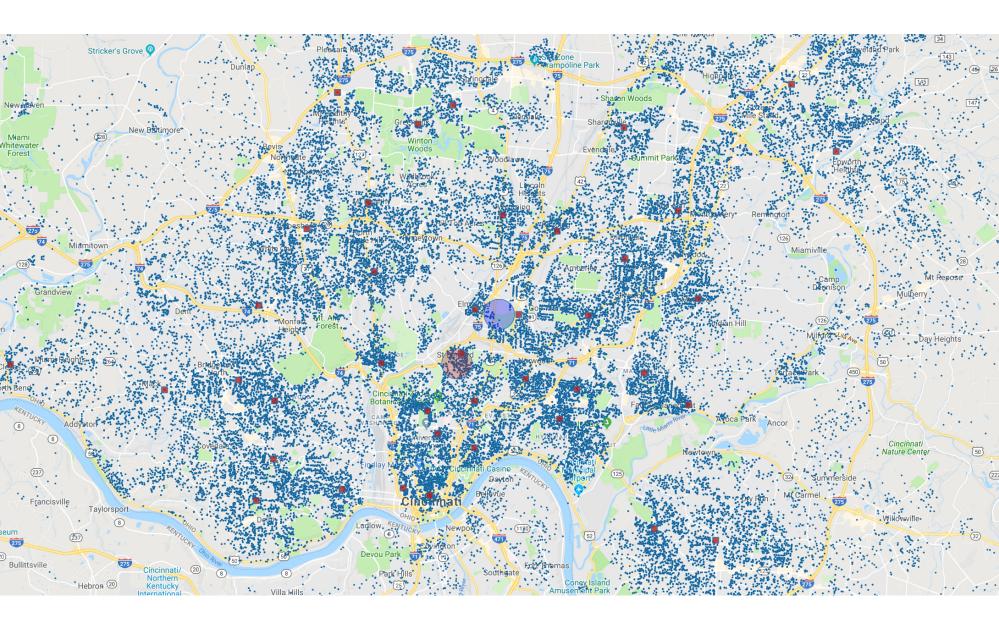
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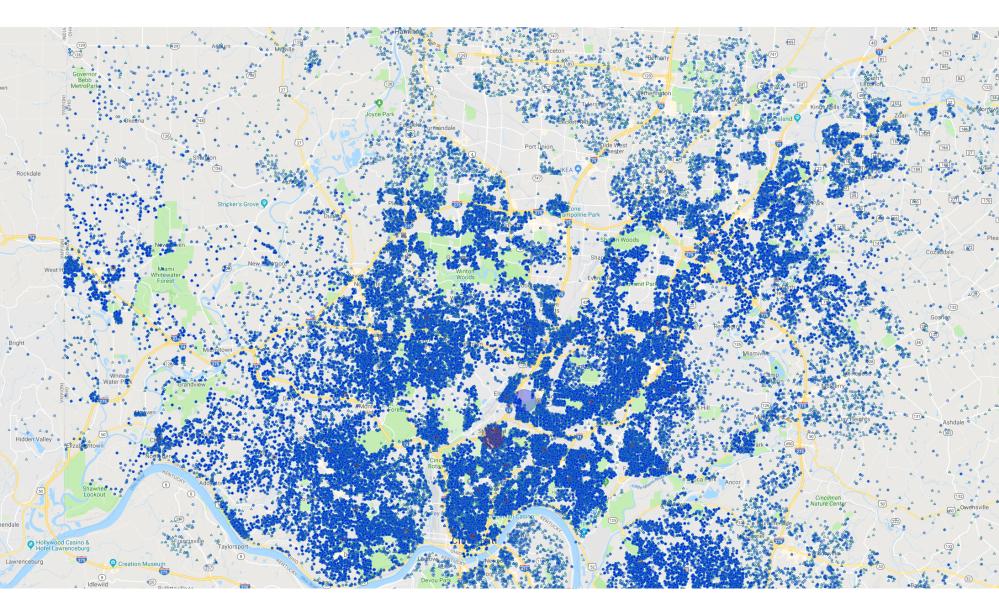
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38 <b>oa</b>	860		90 2029	9 70	770	99	207		233 14	5 27	3 38	429	569	57	217 6	6 171	571	130	550	36 1	1010	860 13	327 1	64 937	187	411	182	546 4	32 23	9 526	1522	333	384 9	6 185	49	143	509	2094	157	71 278	3 450	21795
39 <b>OS</b>		2 8		0 68	1117	175	356		273 21	2 46	8 101	583	909	85	316 100	34 312	1093	226	833	59	790	684 10	061	80 748	267	687	253	444 7	89 33	9 361	528	1476	625 9	1 297	88	207	885	1847	143	32 346	607	26324
40 pl		2 3			1698		250 44	750 46	257 34	9 30 9 6	42	8/1	604	12	46 1	3 161	584	137	605 95	32	602		705	97 456 31 37	212	436	23	397 4 57	129 26 77 5	8 264	3/4	289 1	/41 9	8 416	99	140 1	1143	1204	406	99 312		21439 2939
41 pr									46 3			54 737			46 14		92 476		517	4 20	69			31 37 73 311		321			77 5		50 279	290	70 7 684 7	6 52 1 859	100	29	85	1/9	325	40 75 88 212		2939
42 10	024	1 2	10 7.54	+ 120	1342	111	240	519	130 21	9 20	40	131	514	00	100 50	13 133	4/0	135	517	20	310	343 0	555	13 311	165	321	140	24/ 3	53/ 10	5 209	219	290	004 /	1 009	102	132	000	1	323	30 212	. 304	1002/
43 rew 44 sb	562	1 1	29 513	3 42	343	57	113	148	221 8	6 13	8 36	185	331	104	270 20	216	722	162	310	24	233	230 2	003	88 209	123	245	218	162 4	184 32	7 125	120	132	225 4	5 124	28	370	241	618	133	68 126	8 455	10450
45 sh		4 4			2841		400		337 48	2 43	4 74	1373	882	81	273 20	210	921	235	857	59	762	680 10	176 1	38 634	288	672	247	460 6	394 30	5 400		563 1	474 10	1 791	172	209 1	291	1948	518	81 423		32112
46 sm		5 9			2512	282	659	909	644 39	9 86	1 148	1218	1916	148	644 206	3 549	1847	482	1877	104 (	2576 2	2311 35	35 3	87 2178	661	1456	520	1595 12	298 68		1640	907 1	226 23	8 596	148	481	1767	9396	505 2	24 761		63864
47 wh	1207				394		163	198	143 13	6 22	8 35	271	353	50	132 33	33 108	344	89	417	19				75 238	195	225		231 2	245 15	6 153	205	149	238 6	5 151	22	113	276	633	739 1	40 196		11242
48 wt		1 1					140		100 5			117	368	31	91 30		182	51	364	15		122 1		50 95		273			61 8			95	121 9	8 81	10	72	164	322	99 1	90 229		6736
49 ww	868		33 812		648		520		177 11			277	1094	55	189 11	13 143	532	104	1052	73		353 4		88 302		875	161	266 3	362 20		268	216	316 19	3 178	31	126	419	840	168 1	71 1045		17554
50 <b>wy</b>	958		06 1121	1 73	920	109	251	385	516 17	7 31	2 48	421	620	157	506 6	6 477	1541	336	703	29	605	503 7	718 1	06 496	222	497	447	341 10	35 67	1 256	375	343	461 10	4 193	41	372	600	1391	225	94 29F	3 2017	23053
51 Total Result	52025	111 170	24 73699	3877	52305	6337 16	6372 2	0358 15	5069 963	6 2123	2 3220	26285	44186	1168 15	106 4443	4 12000	43344	10662	41876	2541 34	1915 <u>3</u> 1	1762 459	032 67	91 29236	15640	31762	11840 2	3075 299	93 1630	1 17316	23718	16789 26	792 611	7 14214	2857 1	10744 3f	6321 8	4583 1:	2864 57	04 18666	<del>2891</del> 3 د	1118712
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# **EXAMPLE 4**

## MAPPING GEO DATA FROM PATRON ADDRESS DATA AND CIRCULATION TRANSACTION DATA

- The purpose of this process is to plot patron locations and branch locations on a map based on latitude / longitude coordinates derived from mailing address data
- This is a work in progress!





- Cached data is contained in an SQLite database
   Circulation data

   (weekly export of `sierra\_view.circ\_trans`
  - table view)
  - Patron data

(weekly export of relevant patron information from multiple table views)

- Geocoding Patron Street Addresses:
  - Patron address data (patron\_record\_id, street number, street name, city, zip) are exported to a .csv file

- Possible Geocoding Services:
  - Census.gov

www.census.gov/data/developers/data-sets/Geoco services.html

Google

developers.google.com/maps/documentation/java

SmartyStreets smartystreets.com/products/list

- SmartyStreets has some very user-friendly services for bulk upload / download of address data for verification and geocoding
- SmartyStreets may be able to offer a discounted / free service to libraries that allow for bulk verification / geocoding as well as on-the-fly verification and auto-corrected address inputs for things such as web input forms

- SmartyStreets list service returns .csv data back with relevant address information, identified by the unique ID (`patron\_record\_id`) that was provided
- We may easily load this into the local SQLite database with the import csv feature (from the GUI)

- There are very good data analysis / visualization tools available for Python:
  - PyViz pyviz.org
  - A Conda metapackage "pyviz"
  - Makes data visualization in Python easier to use

#### jupyter\_notebook\_example.pdf