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||  C H P L   L A K E  ||
||  the boring parts - a lake for our own library  ||
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talk handout // issue #8 // aug '26 // senior leadership briefing

Sierra is built to run the library **right now**: it changes records in place and lets the past go. Correct behavior for an operational system – and it means the library's own history is nobody's job unless we make it somebody's job. So we keep our own copy, captured on a schedule and never edited afterward. **An answer is only as good as the oldest thing it leans on.**

WHAT IS ACTUALLY IN IT

- **Bronze – raw.** Exactly what we were handed, encrypted, never edited. Every item record versioned; 47.2M circulation transactions; 2.09M catalog records.
- **Silver – readable.** No borrower attached, so nothing personal leaves by accident. A transit note becomes a place, not a person.
- **Gold – finished.** The answers themselves, rebuilt overnight, never hand-edited: last copies by branch, the transit backlog, collection pressure. You can always walk backwards.

WHAT WE TOOK, SKIPPED, AND ADDED

- **Took, faithfully** – land raw data, remember every version, add sources cheaply.
- **Took by being small** – one machine we already own; 215 GB across 24 registered sources, each reporting what it did, every run.
- **Declined on purpose** – warehouse scale, many engines, streaming, model training.
- **Added** – privacy, which is not on their list and is a very big point of ours.

It remembers, and it protects.

WHAT IT HAS ANSWERED

Delhi Township closes Aug 29 – 751 titles where that branch holds every active copy, 733 of them the only physical item we own. **Northern Kentucky borrowing ends Jan 3** – roughly 10,363 cardholders to reach. **Temporary cards** – 5,276 on file, 2,394 past expiry. **Items stuck in transit** – 3,829 a month, with a printable pull sheet per branch.

The same machinery, pointed at a different question. **Almost nothing in here is new – and that is the achievement.**



the deck + this handout – rayvoelker.github.io/2026-08/our-own-copy/