

Central Library Advisory Council (CLAC)
Upper Hudson Library System (UHLS)
August 2, 2005

Present: Paul Hicok, Jeff Cannell, Deborah Canzano, Jane Minotti, Lenny Zapala,
Barbara Nichols Randall, Pat Sahr, Jo-Ann Benedetti, Phil Ritter (notes)

Chair P. Hicok called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Green Conference Room at UHLS.

The minutes of the meetings on April 14 and May 17 were noted and approved as written.

J. Benedetti reported that she had been asked at the April 14 meeting to research the possibility of contracting for a group purchase of the downloading of Audio Books and eBooks. There are only two or three companies that currently provide such a service, and OverDrive is the only one that provides for both. Last year they had quoted UHLS a “consortia” charge of \$28,000 up-front and \$1,000 per month. They now have a new pricing structure. If we agree to sign a contract by September 30, they will charge UHLS \$1,500 per month and provide us with \$7,500 of initial titles with no up-front charges. These can be Audio Books or eBooks or any combination of the two formats. We must agree to a four-year contract, but we can get out of it at any time before the four years expire. All member libraries would have access to the titles, and any member library may purchase titles to add to the database as long as all member libraries have access to them.

It was reported that Learn-A-Test, which is currently being purchased by UHLS, is still an issue. Current statistics show that we are paying \$9.84 per hit for this service. We have already paid \$15,000 for this service during 2005. It was suggested that we may want to drop Learn-A-Test and add a subscription to OverDrive in January 2006. P.Ritter said that he would be willing for UHLS to pay the \$18,000 annual charge for OverDrive if everyone agreed to drop Learn-A-Test in 2006. J. Benedetti was asked to contact the OverDrive representative, Michael Shontz, in order to obtain a list of available titles and to set up a demo at UHLS during August so that CLAC can make a decision about this matter at its next meeting.

The next meeting of CLAC will be at 9:00 a.m. on September 13, 2005, at UHLS.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.