

ECAC meeting 9/10/25, 10:30am on Zoom

Attending: Geoff Kirkpatrick (BETH), Karrie McLellan (COLN), Judith Wines (UHLS), Jane Chirgwin (RENS), Melissa Tacke (CAST), Kristina Ronald (GUIL), Chris Sagaas (UHLS), Mary Fellows (UHLS), Stephanie Anderson (APL), Sarah Clark (VOOR)

[Minutes from 5/21/25 meeting](#)

No changes made

[Comics Plus](#)

Stephanie Anderson introduced this to UHLS. Judith and Mary Fellows did a call with a sales rep a few weeks ago and got a trial. The total systemwide cost is \$7600/year, plus a one-time 10% implementation fee and \$100 per library if they want their own stats vs. consortium stats. We haven't discussed how it would be funded. There are over 24,000 titles in the collection.

Stephanie: Noticed a trend that Hoopla comics have been getting more use, and Overdrive comics/manga prices have increased. Comics Plus is simultaneous use and has a growing number of publishers, and they are categorized by age. Having Comics Plus could serve as an alternative to Hoopla, and will appeal to kids

Mary: It has childrens, teens, and all ages collections, so it's not just YS-related. It will address the trend of teenagers using digital library media more, and it should be popular for children's content as well. Having a robust collection is in our best interest.

Judith: They promote their web browser-based access. They have an app but it's frustratingly slow.

Overdrive Simultaneous Use - All Access Comics

\$9500/year, integrated into Libby app and titles are always available and changed throughout the year. Over 5600 titles.

In terms of content, Comics Plus doesn't have DC or Marvel, while All-Access Comics has Marvel. Comics Plus has all of the major manga publishers.

Jane: In favor of getting one of these comics subscriptions so that libraries will have something to show if we took away Hoopla.

Stephanie: Getting one of these subscriptions would be a good way to get tweens and teens to use the library. Teens already use devices all the time anyway, so using a new platform wouldn't be an issue.

Judith will ask Questar and Capital Region Boces if they already have Comics Plus access for students.

Last year there were 5,859 Hoopla comic circs.

It would be beneficial to have a centralized funding mechanism to pay for it so access would be available to all. It was agreed to pitch this to the DA for adding funding for digital content for 2026. Overall, there was more interest in Comics Plus over All-Access Comics.

[Hoopla long Survey Results](#)

Only 3 libraries weren't considering any cost control measures in Hoopla. There was a well-distributed split of libraries that would keep it or get rid of it if everyone else did. Someone mentioned it would be great for everyone to move together (either all have it or no one have it).

[Hoopla Short Survey Results](#)

Out of the 23 responses, 3 libraries already cancelled, 3 libraries are going to cancel, 7 will cancel if everyone else does, 5 will keep it if everyone else does, 5 will keep it no matter what, and 1 was unsure.

COLN just started cost-control measures and their spending has gone down significantly
GUIL reduced max checkout price and costs have gone down
CAST also has had reduced costs, but Melissa sees the benefit philosophically of leaving Hoopla (lots of junk content, among other reasons).

Judith: Hoopla asks for a 60-day notice for cancelling, but if you call and plead they will suspend the service. Libraries that are planning on cancelling should coordinate on a date and marketing the change.

Stephanie: For APL post-price cuts, it added an extra layer to the work flow to have to opt-in for popular titles. Price cuts really cut into available titles and reduced the quality of Hoopla service overall. Cutting TV and binge passes didn't get any complaints, but there were some complaints about loss of bestsellers and checkout limits.

Geoff: BETH will keep Hoopla regardless of any other library's decision because their patrons love it, they're heavy users of it, the staff doesn't want to get rid of it, and it's not taking away resources from other places.

Judith will ask Joe if we turned off instant access to Hoopla for online card registrations.

There is not a consensus among libraries about the future of Hoopla. We hope that libraries that are going to cancel hoopla will coordinate their cancellation.

UHLS patron card holders were subsidized by all other libraries, but if more libraries are getting rid of Hoopla, having the remaining libraries subsidizing these patrons isn't fair. We would block UHLS patron type from using Hoopla going forward, most likely at the same time other libraries are cancelling their service.

[Libby Content Controls](#)

Libby sent out an email in which they shared a way for parents to limit the titles that children can access. Overdrive has content maturity levels for Sora by default, so they added it to Libby. Karrie is writing a tech tip post on the COLN blog where she will discuss this feature, and she will share it with the group.

DA OverDrive contribution

Talking about starting 7.5% budget increase in January 2027 in order to give time to accommodate into budgets.

MHLS Stats follow up

MHLS does not purge expired holds.

Scope of the committee

What is the scope of this committee with regards to extraneous e-content? Should e-content for the purposes of this committee excludes anything that might be considered a database?

We should discuss this further to get clarity on it.

9/30 ASAC meeting Overdrive ordering focus

Use the knowledge of this committee, requests members to share their knowledge (e.g. CPC ordering), or if any Overdrive practices are working particularly well.

Next meeting will be in-person