

ASAC Agenda

12/12/24 9:30am at UHLS

In Attendance: Joanne Mulligan (GUIL), Michelle Beutel (GUIL), Meg Kelly (APL), Kelly Akin (VAFL), Julie Weston (VAFL), Amy McLaughlin (APL), Heather Nelson (EGRN), Peggy Mello (COLN), Luke Bowen (BETH), Michelle Reilly (VOOR), Sarah Kerr-Mace (MEND), Jill Kobayashi (RCSC), Judith Wines (UHLS)

[Minutes from September meeting](#)

Overdrive updates

We are on track to break a million checkouts this year for the first time ever! We are currently at 978,604; when the day comes we will do a social media blast.

We got an email from OverDrive showing [average wait times](#) by branch by month; starting in January 2023 the average wait time was 45 days, and by summer the wait time went down. The wait time is going back up now (currently at 38 days across the system). Even libraries that have Advantage accounts don't have lower wait times. This data can serve as evidence to increase digital budgets.

Starting November 2024, OverDrive allows for libraries to create multiple CPC budgets/collections. Anne created 2 budgets in November, one for expired items with holds (using ERO funds) and one for foreign language titles (using outreach funds). This feature can be helpful for book clubs and for collection development for foreign language titles.

OverDrive now has an all-access romance package: 1000 titles, unlimited checkouts for \$4875 a year. Around 26% of OverDrive circulations are romance novels. There was interest in purchasing this package; Judith will send out email to digital listserv to see if anyone is interested in cost-sharing this.

The OverDrive app is no longer supported on Kindle Fires. There is likely a very small number of people that this will affect.

Luke emailed Judith about adding titles to Project Gutenberg. Libraries can add individual titles. ECAC decided to add all of Project Gutenberg (a few thousand titles), but we will have to coordinate with a couple libraries to place orders for new items so when patrons browse by what's new, it won't only be Project Gutenberg titles.

Equity Challenge updates

Examples of smaller, easily replicable ideas already implemented by participating libraries: Nursing basket, putting 7 most spoken languages on self-checkout machine, included hearing loops at service desk, showing movies with subtitles when possible

Adult Services Library of Things

UHLS Youth Services has a large Library of Things that gets lent out to other libraries for programs. People expressed interest in a comparable Library of Things for Adult Services, especially things that are already owned by libraries and could be shared.

E.g. [mystery games](#), [tornado in a bottle](#), Inclusive games, jigsaw puzzles

Resource Guides

There was unanimous interest for UHLS to compile and maintain a county-level/state-level resource guide that can be shared with libraries. The libraries that already have a list like this could share them with UHLS to make a master list.

Top 3 Census resources

Understand how geography works with the census because it's not always intuitive (e.g. school districts). ZIP Code Tabulation Areas and County Subdivisions are likely going to be the most useful for libraries. American Community Survey data is also very useful.

[TigerWeb](#): search by address to find authoritative geographic information (e.g. school district, municipality, census tract, etc.)

[Narrative Profiles](#) gives a write-up of what your community is like (choose your own geography), which can influence outreach/programming choices.

The Census has “data dissemination specialists” that can do free research for you on demographic information. Ours is amy.a.brombos@census.gov; 202-573-3978

Language Line and NYT

We have been sharing digital publicity, we can also create some physical promotion. Language Line is easy to use and can be used anywhere, including outreach sites. Language Line also offers translation services, and since use is currently low we do have some money available for translation.

COSAC meeting 12/18

Post-Covid circ recovery

Circ [chart](#)

For every library except POES, BERN, and GRAF, physical circulation is down from 2019. Digital circulation has increased significantly since 2019, even with the waning of the pandemic. About half the libraries have higher circulation from 2019 (including digital circulation), while half have lower circulation from 2019. We are thinking about asking libraries to increase their minimum contribution to digital content.

2025 goals

When asked “What do you want to do with your library?”, people mentioned increasing circulation and improving accessibility

ASAC Structure

It was suggested that quarterly meetings be “themed”, e.g. one of these quarterly meetings be outreach focused, another digital collections focused, another book club/non-craft programs, and another something else (Collection development was mentioned as another useful theme to discuss). It was decided to keep meetings general with possibly an add-on focus, and to keep meetings in-person rather than through Zoom.