

## **ASAC Minutes**

10/12/23, in-person at GUIL

Called to order at 10:06am.

Natalie Hurteau, Peggy Mello, Amy McLaughlin, Kathleen Tyrrel, Judith Wines, Anne Myers

## **Updates & Feedback:**

### **Overdrive**

Overdrive has made improvements in how they handle magazines. UHLS pays a flat rate for magazines, and simultaneous checkouts are allowed (with each checkout included in circ stats). They have a new subscription model where patrons can subscribe to certain magazines and get each issue of their subscribed magazines delivered to their accounts, where they will get automatically checked out without counting towards their monthly checkout limits. Magazine checkouts should be promoted to patrons.

Cost Per Circ: UHLS is using CPC to purchase items with 1 or 2 holds. The average wait time has gone down from 44 to 33 days. Different libraries use CPC for different things, e.g. BETH purchase foreign language CPC titles, and GUIL uses it for foreign language books and book discussion titles (only 15 people came to the most recent book club meeting, but all physical copies were checked out and many CPC copies were checked out on Libby). There are different levels of awareness of CPC among the libraries. Mention CPC to Karrie at COLN to see if she is familiar with it/has used it before.

### **Spelling Bee Redux?**

Some libraries had more success than others in getting people to sign up for the most recent spelling bees. UHLS Spell-Off was a great success. Judith asked if there was any interest in having another spelling bee (potentially in February, March, or April), as a way to foster cohesion between UHLS libraries. Natalie said GUIL would participate if it's done again; Peggy said COLN is in a transitional state right now and may not be able to commit. Amy said APL has an upcoming adult spelling bee.

### **Other Collaborative Programs**

Amy said patrons want more adult field trips. There was great feedback for the reservoir field trip. Judith said she is hoping to plan a field trip through CDTA for the Rensselaer rail station; we also got a request for the Albany landfill. Judith mentioned an unclaimed funds workshop as another potential collaborative program. It was agreed to aim for planning collaborative programs approximately 3 months in advance.

### **Library Calendars**

UHLS has used Burbio to compile calendars, but we will be losing access soon. We want to facilitate a system-wide library calendar that can gather events from each UHLS library so patrons can see what events are happening at all libraries on different days. EGRN, APL, GUIL

all have Library Market (COLN switching to Library Market in 2024). Amy said Library Market is built specifically for public libraries, and that APL is paying less for Library Market than they were for LibCal. We want libraries to use the same taxonomy/wording/jargon for this calendar.

### **Hoopla Trends**

Anne said BETH, RCSC, and WSTR now have more Hoopla users than Overdrive users. We're glad they're using products, but costs are going to add up fast. To keep costs under control, we have some libraries that use a price cap, and some libraries that only offer items below a certain price point. The issue with price cap is Hoopla divides the library's monthly budget into daily amounts, and once this daily amount is hit patrons will get a note that the limit has been hit and they can't borrow anything. Hoopla is requiring new (to Hoopla) libraries to have a 7 item limit, but COLN may be able to get a 5 item limit since they're part of UHLS consortium. The amount that COLN is budgeting for Hoopla is higher than any other library is spending.

### **Discussion: Service Animals**

There was a brief discussion surrounding service animals in libraries, the two questions that may legally be asked about animals brought into the library, and if any libraries had issues surrounding service animals to report.

### **Open Forum**

Peggy sent an email to the cataloging group asking how libraries are handling donations. For libraries that don't accept donations, they use/suggest using Better World Books (APL), or the Bulk Book Warehouse (COLN).

Natalie emailed Judith an idea about having "library ambassadors". Library workers, friends group, volunteers etc. can keep track of people new to the neighborhood and explain library services, possibly use an outreach grant to put up a Little Free Library and put up flyers about the library. An issue with associating Little Free Libraries with UHLS libraries is that patrons may try to return UHLS books to the Little Free Libraries.

Post offices have new neighbor packets where the libraries could put in flyers. We could also put information in apartment complexes. Peggy said COLN has A to Z Database, which identifies new households and gives names and addresses. Amy said APL tried to spread library info through the hospitals, but logistically it was too difficult. Amy suggested possibly working with Parks and Rec departments to do outreach. We could possibly use permanent Storywalk installations as a kind of bulletin board for libraries.

Judith will look up info about storywalk posts, ask Mary about new family/hospital outreach, gauge interest about spelling bees. Anne will research info about post office new neighbor packets (what it entails, how to participate, etc.).

Discuss accessibility next meeting

**Next location: Back on Zoom, in person in January**

**Adjournment: 11:04am**

