

ASAC - in person edition (!)

Tuesday, March 5th

10 a.m. UHLS offices

In attendance: Judith Wines (UHLS), Anne Myers (UHLS), Wilsinia Ocasio (GUIL), Chloe Whittaker (TROY), Kelly Akin (VAFL), Catherine Snow (EGRN), Michelle Riley (VOOR), Peggy Mello (COLN), Jane Kobayashi (RCSC), Tracey Pause (VOOR)

Focus on Overdrive

- Public Libraries Connect updates

Public Libraries Connect is an interface that allows kids to log into Sora and access their local public library catalog using school credentials (no library card needed). There are age-level modifications for schools to use (e.g. elementary schools have access to elementary-level books). Almost every UHLS library has it. We have one library school district partnership that has far greater use than other partnerships (North Colonie school district) because they actively push using it in the schools. Libraries may wish to share the UHLS-created Sora presentation with their youth services counterparts and have them promote this service to the schools. We can also put something promoting the program on our website/social media.

If there are book challenges regarding items available to students via Sora, the school districts would ultimately be responsible.

-Using Cost Per Circ to meet demand

This model allows holds to be filled at a lower cost than purchasing a new license. Libraries use CPC for foreign language titles, book clubs, etc. For example, Heaven and Earth Grocery Store is CPC 5.50, as opposed to \$27.50 for a 12-month MA license. End date and total budget amounts can be specified.

CPC checkout reports will show circulation in a given time period.

-Metered Access Manager & Holds Manager

These reports can be found under "Purchasing Tools" on OverDrive Marketplace, and they can be customized. They help show/organize what items are about to expire (Metered Access Manager) and build carts of items that patrons have on hold (Holds Manager).

-Simultaneous use options

Overdrive can negotiate with book publishers to allow for simultaneous use for a title.

-Libby Extras

There are some databases available via Libby. These are CPC databases, and they are available on a platform that patrons are already using.

-Patron Interest Manager

This will generate a report of items that have a certain number of Notify Me tags.

UHLS Books-by-Mail

-Overview

Hoping to launch in mid-April, looking to gauge responses from libraries.

Libraries can either provide the service themselves to their patrons, or UHLS would provide it for libraries that don't have the capacity.

We will be using USPS's Free Matter for the Blind, Visually Impaired, and Handicapped program (free postage); items must be large print or audiobooks. Libraries may send other materials, but they would be responsible for paying for postage.

UHLS is purchasing mailing bags with slots for the address label.

Patrons can sign up for the program by filling out an application on the website, on the phone, or through their library, and they can contact us with their book requests.

-Questions and concerns

There is no limit on how often they can borrow items, but they should return the items before getting new ones.

If a patron is an Albany resident but signed up through a non-APL library, reach out to UHLS and either direct them to APL (if APL is handling it themselves) or UHLS will handle it.

Right now UHLS has a popular title standing order with a large print publisher. We might instead order large print items ourselves so we can meet the demand for this program.

If individual libraries are running the program, the items will be returned to that library.

For libraries doing it themselves, they would be okay with using UHLS-purchased bags.

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-Update

6 libraries have subscriptions with OCLC Worldshare, and the rest use the UHLS account, so a small portion of the libraries is bearing most of the cost. There are a number of different lending policies, and we would like to make these policies uniform. Some libraries mail the items back themselves, and the others UHLS returns for them. Systemwide, we spend about \$20,000 on ILL.

-Next steps

We will probably have a meeting with directors soon discussing the cost structures and policies in place, with potential changes made at some point. We ultimately don't want to slow the service down, but there's a lot of room for improvement.

Open Forum

VOOR's graphic novel book club is picking up momentum!

VAFL is starting a new cookbook club.

TROY is doing programs on psychic readings, tarot readings, and the paranormal that have been very popular.

BERN did a “small-business speed dating” program.

GUIL is planning a book-binding program with multiple sessions.

EGRN is planning a local author book fair.