

## **Meeting summary for Cataloging Advisory Council (05/01/2025)**

**[Zoom summary edited by Joe]**

**In attendance:** Rob Carle (UHLS), Joe Thornton (UHLS), Lisa Bouchard (EGRN), Anne Coletta (BETH), Chris O'Brien (BETH), Lisa Thomas (BETH), Sarah Kerr-Mace (MEND), Pam Jacobson (SNLK), Peggy Mello (COLN), Xiaofei Li (APL), Carrie Allmendinger (TROY), Stephanie Anderson (APL)

### **Quick recap**

The team discussed various operational matters, including audiobook purchasing practices, vendor challenges, and e-content management. They explored ways to improve catalog access for dyslexic and reluctant readers, considering options for tagging and searching materials. The meeting also included introductions for a new staff member and updates on individual library initiatives and policies.

### **Next steps**

- Stephanie to email Rob and Peggy to start a conversation about researching and implementing ways to improve discoverability of books for dyslexic readers in the catalog.
- Xiaofei to conduct more research on appropriate catalog tags or keywords for books suitable for dyslexic readers.
- Rob to assist with batch editing of bibliographic records once a consensus is reached on how to tag books for dyslexic readers.
- Joe to talk to Judith about potentially blocking Libby/Overdrive checkouts for patrons with fines above a certain threshold, and have Judith bring it to the DA.
- E-content committee to continue evaluating the balance between Hoopla and Libby, considering budget constraints and patron demand.

### **Summary**

#### **Easter Greetings and Lisa's Absence**

The team exchanges greetings and briefly discusses their Easter experiences. Joe inquires about Lisa Pitkin's whereabouts and well-being, but no one present has any information about her.

#### **Uncertain Demonstrations and New Staff Introduction**

The group discusses the absence of an agenda for the meeting and the uncertainty about planned demonstrations. Peggy, who had previously given a demonstration, joins late and confirms she has no new content to present. Rob offers to follow up individually with anyone who needs clarification on Peggy's previous demonstration. The group welcomes Carrie Allmendinger, a new staff member from Troy Public Library,

and introduces themselves. Joe provides a brief overview of the purpose and structure of these cataloging meetings for Carrie's benefit. The group decides to wait a few moments to see if Stephanie joins with potential content to share.

### **Audiobook Purchasing Practices and Budgets**

The group discusses audiobook purchasing practices and budgets across different libraries. Peggy's library is reducing its audiobook CD budget due to declining checkouts, while other libraries like Bethlehem and Albany continue to purchase them. Stephanie emphasizes the importance of maintaining audiobook CDs for equity and access reasons, as not all patrons have streaming capabilities. The libraries are facing challenges with increased material costs and shipping issues from Baker & Taylor, leading some to switch to alternative vendors like Midwest for audiobooks.

### **Ingram as Alternative to Baker**

Stephanie discusses the challenges with Baker & Taylor as a vendor, including issues with call numbers and Hachette titles. She suggests Ingram as an alternative, explaining that they offer a free account with iPage and have better access to local author titles and Amazon print-on-demand books. Stephanie offers to help with iPage setup and mentions that while it's clunky to use, their customer service is good. She also notes that Ingram has existing contracts with smaller independent publishers and Amazon, making it easier to obtain certain titles.

### **Bethlehem's Ingram Setup and Loan Periods**

Anne reports that Bethlehem is in the process of setting up with Ingram and expects to be live with them for orders in June. Stephanie mentions that Albany Public Library is considering bringing back a shorter loan period for new CDs due to budget constraints and availability issues. The group discusses the challenges of fine-free policies and extended loan periods, with Joe suggesting they look into blocking Libby checkouts for patrons with fines above a certain threshold. Lisa B. learns that Colonie has had Hoopla for about a year and a half, though they haven't promoted it due to budget concerns.

### **E-Book and Audiobook Collection Management**

Stephanie, who is on the e-content committee, explains the complexities of managing e-book and audiobook collections through Libby and Hoopla. She discusses the challenges of balancing budgets, meeting patron demands, and dealing with different pricing models. The committee is considering whether to keep both vendors or focus on one, as managing both is time-consuming and costly. Stephanie also explains how libraries handle patron requests for new titles, using internal ratios to determine which books to purchase based on the number of requests and available budget.

### **Improving Catalog Access for Dyslexic Readers**

The group discusses improving catalog access for dyslexic readers and reluctant readers. Stephanie proposes revisiting the decision to link large print and audio-enabled e-reader records in Sierra, suggesting it could benefit these user groups. The team explores options for tagging and searching for these materials, including using sans serif font information and adding keywords to the catalog records. Rob suggests batch editing records to add consistent tags. The group agrees to research this further and potentially implement changes to improve discoverability, especially with the upcoming move to *Vega Discover*.