

Meeting summary for Cataloging Advisory Council, Thursday, October 2, 2025

Zoom summary edited by Lisa Bouchard

In attendance: Rob Carle (UHLS), Joe Thornton (UHLS), Anne Coletta (BETH), Lisa Thomas (BETH), Lisa Bouchard (EGRN), Carrie Allmendinger (TROY), Chris O'Brien (BETH), Sarah Kerr-Mace (MEND), Peggy Mello (COLN), Jane Feeney (BETH), Pam Jacobson (SNLK), Kathleen Tyrrell (GUIL)

Quick recap

The meeting primarily focused on addressing challenges faced by libraries due to financial issues at Baker & Taylor, which led to delayed deliveries and backorders, with some libraries transitioning to alternative suppliers like Amazon and Ingram. The group discussed the complexities of managing orders and workflows with these new suppliers, including issues with pricing, account management, and manual processes. The conversation ended with discussions about serials training needs across the system and plans for addressing these challenges at an upcoming DA meeting.

Next steps

- [Peggy to send an email to support with criteria for a Create List report to identify items with Colonie pickup reserves.](#)
- [Rob to help Peggy with the Create List report for identifying items with Colonie pickup reserves.](#)
- [Peggy to contact Albany and Guilderland libraries to ask about their Baker & Taylor workarounds.](#)
- [Alyssa to bring up Baker & Taylor issues at the DA meeting.](#)
- [Joe to support the serials training initiative at the DA meeting.](#)

Summary

Library Supplier Crisis and Solutions

The meeting focused on the challenges faced by libraries due to the financial issues of Baker & Taylor, which led to delayed deliveries and backorders. Anne explained that Bethlehem is currently using Amazon as an alternative supplier, and this has created a new workflow and financial tracking system. Peggy inquired about the situation, and it was revealed that a planned acquisition of Baker & Taylor by ReaderLink fell through, leaving libraries in a difficult position. The library is exploring options but is limited by state contracts and the high costs of alternative suppliers like Ingram.

Amazon's Library Supply Market Impact

The group discussed the potential impact of Amazon's recent moves in the library supply market, including their new MARC records and custom pricing offerings for public libraries. Peggy shared her experience with Amazon's library business interface, noting its limitations compared to Baker & Taylor's Title Source 360 system, and described the manual workaround process currently being used to manage orders. The discussion revealed that while some libraries are transitioning to Amazon, the process is complex and involves creating wish lists and manually transferring order information from Baker & Taylor, with concerns raised about the lack of clear communication from Baker & Taylor about their situation.

Library Account and Backlog Challenges

The meeting focused on addressing back-order issues with 450 items that need to be spent before the year's end. Peggy sought help from Rob to create a report using ISBNs, but Rob suggested contacting Albany and Guilderland for further assistance. The group discussed challenges with Amazon's library account, with Anne mentioning their account was automatically converted from a business to a library account. Joe inquired about the extent of the problem, and MEND shared that they use Ingram, which has been delivering items on time but is expected to face backlogs soon. The conversation ended with no clear solution for replacing Baker and Taylor, with participants considering options like Amazon, Ingram, and Brodart.

Baker & Taylor DA Meeting Discussion

Peggy mentioned that her director would discuss Baker & Taylor issues at the upcoming DA meeting, and Rob suggested using the cataloging list for exchanging ideas on handling these problems. Joe inquired about the details of the DA meeting agenda, and Peggy confirmed it would focus on Baker & Taylor issues and library practices. Joe also raised concerns about serials training for CE credits, noting that Lisa Pitkin is working part-time at Albany and questioning whether Stephanie's previous discussion on this matter was addressed.

Serials Training Initiative Discussion

The group discussed the need for serials training across the system, with general agreement that bringing in an outside expert for CE credits would be beneficial. They specifically discussed having Lisa Pitkin conduct the training, with Lisa B noting that she has experience teaching cataloging at UAlbany. Joe expressed some concerns about the process going through DA without prior discussion but agreed to support the

initiative at the upcoming DA meeting. The group acknowledged that while serials training is important, there will always be challenges with serials cataloging, and the training would help standardize practices across our system.