

E-Content Advisory Committee Meeting, 9/20/2019 3:00pm

Present: Stephanie Anderson APL, Jane Chirgwin RENS, Natalie Hurteau UHLS, Bek Jarvis-Girtler COLN, Kristina Ronald GUIL, Melissa Tacke CAST, Judith Wines RCSC

Guest: Tim Burke UHLS



Previous minutes required typo corrections

Selecting a Digital Magazine Platform for 2020



Discussion: The platforms

- Flipster is our current magazine service and is very expensive
- OverDrive offers a magazine platform integrated with its other collections
- Flipster has a better overall user experience. Overdrive's offering has poor zoom function on mobile devices, and no article view (text only view)
- Overdrive offers a large package of magazines at a significantly lower price than Flipster – but does not include many of the most popular titles in Flipster
- Several libraries represented on the committee experienced a drop in circulation after we switched to Flipster from a previous iteration of Overdrive's digital magazine offering



Discussion: Comparing costs

- Savings by switching entirely to Overdrive are substantial and could allow more funds to be allocated to nonfiction holds. There is a high demand for nonfiction audiobooks in particular
- So far this year, we've had \$12,775 spending on nonfiction titles. If Central Library funds are used to purchase more of those titles, then member libraries can be encouraged to focus on fiction
- Savings would be reduced, but still sizeable if we went to a hybrid model where the popular titles were kept in Flipster (including People and the New Yorker), but all the rest moved to Overdrive – represents about a \$20k savings



Vote to recommend that we move to a hybrid model for 2020



Next Steps:

- Natalie will make a list of Overdrive titles to be included in our package
- Natalie will ask Flipster if there is a lower limit to the number of titles available

Remaining Central Library Budget



Discussion: How should the remaining \$20k be spent?

- We could spend these funds on Novelist or Nonfiction holds
- How would we measure the success of Novelist? It would be nice, but how can we justify a new service when there is already unmet demand for an existing service?
- We recommend that these funds be spent on nonfiction holds

Lucky Day



Discussion: Do we recommend libraries give this a shot?

- GUIL is going to try it



Next Steps:

- After GUIL pilots it, the committee will re-assess

Macmillan Model Change



Discussion: Macmillan (publisher) has elected to lock down ebook purchase options to a single OC/OU title for the first 8 weeks, then only metered access copies from then on out



Next Steps:

- Member libraries will share petition against this model change
- Natalie will ask Overdrive if Advantage libraries can buy their own copies

High Holds



Discussion: Do we still want to limit checkouts to 5 at a time in Overdrive?

- Looked at new data shared with us by Overdrive
- 11% of users had 5+ items out
- 9% of total patrons have 27% of materials out
- Kids items will often be checked out in batches – do we want to limit this?
- If the long goal is to ask libraries to spend collection funds on Overdrive to match high demand, do we want to risk undercutting growth?
- Can we find a way to encourage users to return items early?
- If additional spending is not possible, what can we do now to try to alleviate the problem?
- Would reducing holds and encouraging users to utilize the wish list feature help cut down on unused holds clogging things up?



Vote passed to reduce holds to 5 instead of reducing checkouts



Next Steps:

- Natalie will ask Overdrive about what happens to extra holds over 5 when this setting it changed



Motion to Adjourn Approved

Next Meeting: TBD