

ECAC meeting 12/14/23

Time: Dec 14, 2023 10:00 AM

Attending: Judith Wines (UHLS), Karrie McLellan (COLN), Stephanie Anderson (APL), Kristina Ronald (GUIL), Jane Chirgwin (RENS), Geoff Kirkpatrick (BETH), Melissa Tacke (CAST), Anne Myers (UHLS)

### **Review minutes from last meeting**

The [minutes](#) from the 8/21/23 meeting were approved.

### **2024 Spending Contributions**

There is a 5% increase in minimum spending contributions per year until further notice (libraries have known about this yearly increase since about 2015).

There was a 10% increase in total Overdrive circulation from last year.

Stephanie reported that Andrea has asked why we can't spend more on Advantage titles rather than the minimum contribution in order to process holds on popular items more quickly. The general guideline is that Advantage spending is on top of the minimum spending, although it was acknowledged that this guideline was set years ago when usage was different. The need for a more flexible budget and potential future budget adjustments was discussed, along with the idea of maintaining a 5% increase in the budget each year. The minimum spending amounts guideline is not enforced.

### **Spending Central Library funds on Cost Per Circ**

A year ago, with loosened regulations, we shifted Central Library money to juvenile titles; since this didn't result in increased circulations, it was decided to use the money that was left over for the year on making expired titles with active holds available through the CPC model.

Central Library funds available as of 8/29/23 (when decision was made): \$9,402.84

September CPC costs: \$790.04

October CPC costs: \$645.90

November CPC costs: \$1,339.21

November high holds purchases: \$1,009.17

Total spent September-November: \$3,784.32

Remaining amount: \$5,618.52

The average hold times went down about 12 days.

It was decided to spend this remaining money on purchasing high-demand holds, and it was decided to keep setting aside some of the Central Library digital content funds for CPC in 2024. The Central Library budget in 2024 for digital content is \$101,973. 50% (\$50,986.50) of this money will be set aside for new nonfiction titles, \$10,000 will be set aside for CPC, and the rest (\$40,986.50) will be spent on high holds.

### **Holds Intelligence Reports**

This tool from Overdrive will look at all the holds held by patrons and come up with the most cost-effective ways to purchase the titles (using different lending models). It primarily focuses on immediate impact and might not be suitable for long-term investments (e.g. it may be better in the long run to buy MA instead of CPC).

### **Metered Access (MA) Manager**

This report shows CPC availability for titles, which will save time. A title doesn't show up in this report if it's owned in another format (e.g. if it's expired in ebook but it's owned in audiobook, it won't show up), which is a downside. Judith will email the Overdrive rep and say that this is a negative, and will ask if it can be adjusted.

It was decided that it would be useful to hold an in-person training for Overdrive selectors at libraries on how to use these Overdrive tools.

### **What portion of metered checkouts are unutilized?**

Judith recently met with our Hoopla representative and noted how Hoopla's cost per circulation averages to about \$2 per item, compared to Overdrive's 60 cents and physical items' 50 cents. The rep countered this by saying that we only pay for Hoopla items when they're checked out, while we purchase metered access items in Overdrive that may not get fully used. It would be interesting, but not essential, to see the number of circs on Overdrive items before they expire. Kristina mentioned that understanding unused purchases could influence future purchasing decisions.

### **Overdrive Magazine Circs**

November 2023: 16,561

November 2022: 4,614

In addition to the new Magazine Rack feature that allows patrons to subscribe to magazines and will automatically check out the newest issues to their Libby accounts, the team speculated that this increase might be due to the visibility of magazines on the app shelf. Jane pointed out that users might be subscribing unknowingly.

### **Hoopla**

The best way for libraries to cap spending is by removing pricier items available in their collection, although these pricier items are often the more popular titles. Judith asked the Hoopla rep if the total number of checkouts per month could be lowered, but this was not an option.

### **Palace Project**

App that can be downloaded, libraries can pool their Overdrive and Baker and Taylor collection items (not Hoopla), often statewide, not compatible with Kindle

The team discussed the potential integration of the Palace project, a nonprofit app that allows for libraries to pool their digital collections, into their existing digital content system. They considered approaching the New York State government or individual consortiums about the project, but expressed concerns about their capacity to handle it. Stephanie also said that the app is not compatible with Kindle and Hoopla and doesn't have magazines, which would make it a harder sell. Judith will reach out to her econtent counterparts in other systems to continue this conversation.