

ECAC meeting 4/30/24, 4pm

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), Catherine Snow (EGRN), Nate Heyer (GUIL), Sarah Clark (VOOR), Kim Roppolo (STEP)

Expanding RLA

[Comparison with Ramapo Catskill and Westchester library systems](#)

Judith spoke with Overdrive and they sent a report about digital collection size (see above attachment).

When RLA became a thing, Overdrive suggested we partner with Westchester, Ramapo Catskill, and Mid Hudson. Westchester and Ramapo Catskill were not initially interested. When looking at the digital collection size, Westchester and Ramapo Catskill are closer to being our peers than MVLS and SALS. We haven't spoken at all with Westchester yet. If we decide to go through with this, Tim will reach out to his counterparts at Westchester and Ramapo Catskill. If they're amenable, Overdrive will share this information with them and we'll take it from there. Were we to share with Westchester, there's no obligation for them to also share with our RLA partners. If they were to enter into the grand RLA, it would include MVLS, SALS, and MHLS. We could also enter a separate RLA with just Westchester.

Overdrive is working on an update to the interface instead of the clunky way of doing it now; there will be a checklist for people to add their library card to RLA.

There was consensus to ask Westchester and Ramapo Catskill about starting a RLA with UHLS.

Update on Larger Consortia

Judith emailed Overdrive right before PLA regarding creating a larger consortia. The biggest stumbling block is there needs to be a preexisting umbrella organization. If there was, for example, a Central NY Library Association or a state library you could do it, but you can't band together with a bunch of random libraries and ask for it. It didn't seem like we were being encouraged to do it.

SCPL Request to Join UHLS Automation

[E-content Implications](#)

SCPL has withdrawn from Joint Automation (ILS provided between MVLS and SALS) and has submitted a request to UHLS board to join UHLS ILS. This may or may not preclude a request to be a fuller member of UHLS.

SCPL is an MVLS member, and MVLS members aren't permitted to purchase their own Overdrive content nor have an Advantage account; the central MVLS office does all of the purchasing. SCPL has more Overdrive users than any UHLS library, but they have lower circs

than 4 of our libraries. SCPL has \$60,000 to contribute to Overdrive collection for next year. This is more than any of our library minimum contributions, but less than the top 5 Overdrive spending. SCPL has fewer Overdrive holds than 4 UHLS libraries. They will not be able to bring any of their digital collection with them.

Melissa: Concerned that if we open our collection to SCPL our wait times will exponentially increase. Is SCPL spending on Hoopla? Ideally there would be something where their users have more like RLA access to UHLS collection (e.g. set up so it's RLA-esque, they can check out items that don't have any holds, but they wouldn't be able to place holds on high-demand items), and after a "probation period" where they have more time to build the collection they can have greater access. Maybe they could put money into Advantage account items for high-demand holds for their patrons and have RLA-style access to UHLS.

Stephanie: As long as SCPL still has access to MVLS content, doesn't think we should put our content on the table.

Nate: Would it be possible for them to get an Advantage account? MVLS doesn't allow its members to have Advantage accounts. Until they actually leave MVLS, they can't put money into Advantage account for them. We shouldn't put Overdrive access on the table yet. We should ask them to pay money to UHLS to increase our collection. Or it could be like how Colonie does things where they order (the bill comes to UHLS, and then we invoice them). We should wait if/until they're a member of UHLS.

Geoff: If they drop out of Joint Automation, what would prevent them from opening an Overdrive account? They're still members of MVLS.

Stephanie: They centrally order, so there are few librarians that do selections, so there are very few staff that can order for Overdrive. If they were paying into us, they would leave the MVLS Overdrive consortium and join UHLS Overdrive consortium.

Melissa: Asked to find out how much SCPL is currently spending on Hoopla.

Kristina: Is there any chance this \$60,000 can increase? It's considerably more than they're putting into MVLS now.

Jane: Can we change how many holds patrons can have? E.g. they could only have x number of holds at a time while UHLS libraries can have y number of holds.

Geoff: If the goal is eventually that they are a member of UHLS, there would be no reason to say no to joining UHLS Overdrive consortium.

When you change providers (e.g. Flipster to Overdrive) and have patrons sign up for a new account, there will be resistance and not every one of the 5,000 SCPL patrons will proportionally use Overdrive right away.

Schenectady County would vote to withdraw from MVLS, they would formally ask to join UHLS, Board of Regents would have to approve it, and then state aid to UHLS would change to reflect new population, mileage, etc.

Right now, there is no interest in entertaining the idea of SCPL joining the UHLS Overdrive consortium without joining the system as a whole. We need to ask Overdrive whether we can reduce number of holds SCPL patrons can hold/slowly open the floodgates, if there is potential for them to spend more than \$60,000, will they still be spending on Hoopla, and when they fully join us their contributions will be proportional to usage like the other UHLS libraries. We don't know if they'll join our ILS or not, depending on the board's decision. We would revisit this if they become a full member.

SORA [Sweet Reads](#)

Sweet Reads is now up on Overdrive. Geoff will ask BETH staff to handle promotion.

Diversity Audit of OverDrive

We asked for a new diversity audit of Overdrive, and they delivered. Our Econtent selection guidelines are from 2022, so they need to be looked at. We will look at this on **Tuesday, June 11 at 3pm**.

Look at the diversity audit and look at the last one and see where we've made improvements. We can also ask Overdrive to help us go over it.

Updating E-Content [Selection Guidelines](#)

Break up into sections that people can look over.