

ECAC meeting 12/4/24, 2:30 p.m.

Attending: Judith Wines (UHLS), Catherine Snow (EGRN), Sarah Clark (VOOR), Kristina Ronald (GUIL), Jane Chirgwin (RENS), Nate Heyer (GUIL), Geoff Kirkpatrick (BETH), Stephanie Anderson (APL), Anne Myers (UHLS)

[Minutes from 6/11/24 meeting](#)

Minutes approved

Adding Project Gutenberg titles to OverDrive

UHLS received an email from a member library asking if we could add additional Project Gutenberg titles to OverDrive. Libraries can add them if they choose. They haven't all been added because there are thousands of titles available and it could overwhelm the collection. Geoff said it would be nice to sequester it into its own section in OverDrive like how magazines are. At one point the UHLS resources webpage had a direct link to these items, and OverDrive did have them sequestered at one point. Stephanie suggested they could be set aside as a separate collection. Judith will ask OverDrive if titles can be sequestered and removed from the collection.

Capacity for multiple Cost Per Circ budgets

Starting November 2024, OverDrive allows for libraries to create multiple CPC budgets/collections. Everyone present at the meeting received information about this change from OverDrive. Anne created 2 budgets in November, one for expired items with holds (using ERO funds) and one for foreign language titles (using outreach funds). Titles must be added individually to budgets. Stephanie suggested putting initials on CPC budgets to let others know who is creating them (since budgets are visible to everyone when using the main OverDrive account). Judith said we will send out something about this feature to member libraries, because it can be helpful for book clubs and for collection development for foreign language titles.

Average Waiting Period over time (see attachments)

OverDrive can provide reports showing month-by-month/branch-by-branch number of holds and average days on hold. Looking at the data, Advantage libraries aren't doing better than non-Advantage libraries with their hold times. The wait times also appear to be seasonal (longer waits in the winter, shorter waits in the summer). Nate said this seasonality could be impacted by when libraries spend their budgets (e.g. more money being spent at the end of fiscal year in June, so holds would go down), and Judith and Stephanie said it could be based on the publishers' schedules (lots of bestsellers come out in September and October). Judith will share the chart and point out the seasonality of holds, which could help with purchasing decisions.

[Ratio of digital to print spending](#) and recommended spending minimums for 2026

For the past 5+ years, there has been a 5% minimum spending increase yearly for Overdrive. Do we want to think about changing that number for 2026, or keep it at a 5% increase?

Geoff said digital spending surpasses print spending at Bethlehem; this is deliberate because physical circulation hadn't bounced back after the pandemic.

Only 1 library in Albany County and 2 in Rensselaer County have higher physical circulation than 5 years ago, all the others were fairly significantly lower. When adding in digital circulation, about half of the libraries have increased their overall circulation, showing the shift from print to digital in a lot of communities.

Nate said at Guilderland, foot traffic is back to pre-pandemic levels, but physical circulation is still down; foot traffic is probably due to other library services. Total circulation levels are back to normal because of digital circulation. He suggested looking at the cost per user rather than the cost per circ.

Geoff pointed out that print books may have a lower cost per circ than digital circ, but there's a higher cost via staff labor, courier, etc.

Accessibility can be better with digital or print depending on the community.

Judith said we have a lot of power users who are digital first users, and a few years ago there was concern among the committee about throwing money at digital titles that would benefit a smaller amount of people.

No decision was made today regarding changing the recommended spending minimums for 2026.

Sunsetting of Kindle Fire Overdrive App

The OverDrive app is no longer supported on Kindle Fires. There is likely a very small number of people that this will affect.

Open Forum

OverDrive now has all-access romance package: 1000 titles, unlimited checkouts for \$4875 a year. Around 26% of OverDrive circulations are romance novels. There was interest in purchasing this package; Judith will send out email to digital listserv to see if anyone is interested in cost-sharing this.

All libraries except one have met their digital spending goals for 2024. Over half a million dollars has been spent on OverDrive.