

ECAC meeting 5/21/25, 11am on Zoom

Attending: Judith Wines (UHLS), Karrie McLellan (COLN), Catherine Snow (EGRN), Sarah Clark (VOOR), Melissa Tacke (CAST), Stephanie Anderson (APL), Kristina Ronald (GUIL), Geoff Kirkpatrick (BETH), Jane Chirgwin (RENS)

### [Minutes from 4/1/25 meeting](#)

Minutes approved, no changes made.

### **DA OverDrive contribution conversation**

- The DA is still looking for a minimum contribution number. Right now there is a 5% yearly increase. 7.5% has been thrown around as a possible number (it's realistically not enough, but it's more than what we're working with now). Sarah suggested a gradual increase over the years (e.g. 7.5% to 10% to 12%).
- There isn't a UHLS mission statement for econtent, but we try to provide a robust and diverse collection with reasonable wait times for patrons. It's not supposed to be an on-demand service (libraries never have been). Different libraries have different philosophies, so it would not be possible to meet every demand.
- Motion passed to make recommendation to DA that they adopt a 7.5% increase to econtent contribution going forward. This would apply to new spending and ERO.

### **[MHLS stats and discussion of Advantage](#)**

Do we want to continue our consortium-first policy vs. libraries prioritizing Advantage?

We got some information from MHLS, whose spending is almost all in Advantage except for Central Library funds and a few select projects.

- When comparing the two systems, UHLS breadth of collection is greater, unique users similar, MHLS service population is larger, UHLS circ is quite a bit higher, spending is similar, wait periods are nearly the same.
- Given the almost identical wait times, spending in Advantage does not reduce wait times.
- Judith and Geoff pointed out that UHLS has had OverDrive longer than MHLS so we have a larger catalog of OC/OU titles for patrons.
- Melissa said these numbers strengthen the argument for consortium-first policy, with Advantage spending as a bonus.
- Follow-up questions for MHLS: Does MHLS regularly clear out holds that have been outstanding for a year, since this could affect the wait time number? Does MHLS try to always buy items in ebook and audiobook format when available?

### **[Feasibility of Overdrive as Hoopla CPC alternative](#)**

- If a patron seeks a title that is available in multiple models, this is the order that they are offered to the patron: Simultaneous use, OC/OU, Metered byTime/CKO, CPC (least budget-friendly)
- CPC is not available in RLA.
- The number of CPC CKOs per patron per month is a system level setting and can be set separately for audiobooks and ebooks. Currently it's set at 3 ebooks and 3 audiobooks.
- All Hoopla titles are 3.99 or less.

Overdrive CPC available at below \$4: 1,727,168

Overdrive CPC available at below \$3: 1,574,506

Overdrive CPC available at below \$2: 1,260,269

Overdrive CPC with one or more hold on them available at below \$4: 2,150

-OverDrive's CPC costs are much higher than Hoopla, and in Hoopla the costs go down faster.

-CPC would only be in Advantage accounts, so libraries would only be paying for their patrons.

-Encourage everyone to familiarize themselves with the CPC page and what can be purchased in this model.

-Committee members conjecture that if multiple libraries were to leave Hoopla, other libraries would join them.

### **Hoopla information sharing**

-More and more libraries are asking about ways to limit costs. The spreadsheet is updated once a month, so at any given point in time it may have out of date information. APL is now doing a \$2.99 price cap and reduced borrows, and they are also not doing notifications anymore reminding patrons of their available borrows. APL may send out a survey asking patrons how they use Hoopla to tailor what is available in Hoopla. EGRN said they only got a few comments from patrons asking about titles not being available when the \$1.99 price cap went into effect. Sarah said that because of titles disappearing on streaming services, patrons are used to items suddenly not being available.

-The spreadsheet format is working. Judith also wants a more efficient way of making all this information available.

-Do we want to push Hoopla more on this limit by format?

-Melissa is in favor of having a more curated Hoopla collection to cut down on junk titles (e.g. summaries, AI titles) to maintain trust in libraries, or completely walking away from Hoopla

-Jane suggested taking a survey of directors to see if they would be in favor of leaving Hoopla or restricting Hoopla formats with the possible end goal of leaving. Geoff will email out a summary of this conversation in advance of the DA meeting, we can discuss this at DA and then send out a survey.

### **Cloud Library CPHM follow up**

-CPH finds it useful for titles that aren't new but still have a lot of demand. Apparently there's no rule of purchasing content, you just pay to have access. CPH just uses Hoopla for music, movies, and comics, but Kristina and Judith said that Hoopla is resistant to limiting collections like this.

-Jane and Stephanie said that if it can't replace Hoopla, they would rather not get Cloud Library and instead try to pursue more RLAs with other consortia.

-It was agreed to not pursue purchasing Cloud Library.

### **All-Access Romance refresh**

-The collection will be refreshed this week, Anne will put out social media promotion.

### **Format for next meeting**

-Next meeting will be in-person.

