Date: 2/14/17  
Location: Mid-Hudson Library System Auditorium

Committee Members Attending:

- Emily Chameides (Columbia)  
- Daniela Pulice (Dutchess)  
- Carol Fortier (Dutchess)  
- Maureen Garcia (Greene)  
- Michele Capozzella (Putnam)  
- Margie Menard (Ulster)  
- Tracy Priest (Ulster)  
- Merribeth Advocate (MHLS)

Staff attending: Tom Sloan, Tom Lawrence, Deb Weltsch, Casey Conlin

Minutes from the 11/29/16 meeting reviewed and approved by Daniela Pulice, seconded by Tracy Priest.

Discussion Items:


2. Reviewed database usage through December. Consumer Reports usage is low and discussion followed regarding an awareness campaign to increase usage of all databases. There was a discussion about Mid-Hudson creating a category of user to allow a patron to apply for a barcode to use the system’s e-resources without physically going to the library. Casey had concerns about going through the Mid-Hudson page instead of the library’s web page and there was discussion about the possibility of adding a button to the vendor’s page if that was a possibility. This would be a research and development project.

3. As of July 2017, Research in Context (Gale) and Encyclopedia Britannica (Britannica Digital Learning) will be added to NOVELny databases and three databases – eLibrary Elementary, Scholastic Go!, and Gannett Newsstand Complete – will be removed.

4. The non-renewal of TERC has freed up $5,850 CLDA funds and $7,040 member funds previously budgeted for 2017. The committee discussed alternatives for the use of the funds but are not committing to anything at this time.

5. There are issues with getting Open SUNY Textbooks to work properly and there is a case open to remedy this.
6. Discussion about Tuesdays Tips and eTips from Central Library staff as ready-made content that can easily be used by member libraries for their social media accounts and web pages. The content could be edited to make it appeal to the local target audience.

7. Zinio for Libraries 2017 cost is $22,107.56 ($7,500 platform fee/$14,607.56 content fee). Tom Lawrence proposed that members should be educated on how to use Zinio statistics to assist in their magazine collection development. County associations that provide funding for Zinio titles will be expected to have any additions or deletions to Merribeth by October.

8. Public service staff training and education for the Spring and Fall will consist of collection management presentations at each county meeting and additional workshops for staff if requested. The importance of having the support of the Director and the Board of Trustees was discussed.

9. Each library will receive a sample weeding packet with a narrative and a snapshot of how their customized list will be created. Presentations will be given to clarify the narrative and provide an opportunity for questions. Every library will be expected to return the form to receive their customized report and to give the report consideration. The reports will focus on older materials across all collections.

10. The current Overdrive policy of purchasing additional copies when the hold ratio exceed 4.5 and repurchasing titles that have timed out but still have holds is unable to be supported with the current funding. Discussion followed on how the policy should be revised so that it reflects what is currently being done especially since Overdrive projects a 29% increase in the total number of holds over the next year. Tom Lawrence stated that people seem to be willing to wait as long as necessary for items they have on hold and the bigger problem may be the patrons waiting for timed out holds that will never be filled. At the March DA meeting, lists of timed out holds will be given to the appropriate Director’s for purchase consideration.

The committee also discussed the Recommend to Library feature available through Overdrive. Patrons can search for items not in the Mid-Hudson collection and recommend purchases. The committee will recommend to the DA that this feature be activated. The reports are generated by patron’s home library, and the recommending patron will be the first to get the item if purchased, if they choose that option.

Submitted by Michele Capozzella