

Agenda Attachment

Additional Funding for eBooks

Background: eBooks are very popular with MHLS patrons, but the existing collection is too small to meet their needs. \$14,000 of Central Library Development Aid was to go to OverDrive in 2010, and a similar amount in 2011 but due to the delay in 2010 funds being sent out from NYS, none of it has been received. The 2010 and 2011 platform fee of about \$16,000 each year has been fronted by the MHLS Business Office at this point.

Issue: Alleviate the cash-flow problem that is preventing new content from being purchased by each library contributing a set amount specifically to purchase eBooks now.

Recommendation: Each library contribute a set amount towards eBooks. \$50, \$75 and \$100 each was suggested.

Status: Discussed in February, Action Item in March.

2011 OverDrive audiobook/eBook funding split

Background: Now that we have added the new format of eBooks to OverDrive, the funds designated for OverDrive need to be split to fund the two formats. At the February meeting it was decided that the % spent on eBooks and on audiobooks will be annually determined by vote of the DA.

The existing eBook collection too small to meet patron demand. The same is true for the audiobook collection which is continuing to grow in popularity, as there has been no purchasing for several months.

Issue: eBooks cost about one-quarter to one-third the price of audiobooks.

Recommendation: Each of the following was recommended:

- 25% spent on eBooks, 75% spent on audiobooks
- 35% spent on eBooks, 65% spent on audiobooks
- 40% spent on eBooks, 60% spent on audiobooks

Status: Discussed in February, Action Item in March.