

Agenda Attachment

Adding E-Books to OverDrive:

Background: When MHLS libraries started with OverDrive for digital downloads, they decided to start with just the downloadable audiobook format and to add e-books when the time was right. In designing the interface for downloads the site was consciously named the "MHLS Digital Download Center" to leave the door open to add other digital content, like e-books, in the future. OverDrive has proved to be a reliable, supportive vendor of digital downloads and patron participation has been very high.

Issue: The professional opinion is that e-books are here to stay. System-wide purchasing of e-books has been a topic of ongoing interest at both member library advisory committee meetings and at county meetings, with the general feeling that the time is right to start offering this new format to patrons. The DA charged the Central Library / Collection Development Advisory Committee to come up with a plan to make this possible system-wide.

The Committee found that MHLS libraries can add the new format of e-books system-wide quite economically:

- A good beginning collection of popular e-books can be started for under \$5000, which gives a low-risk way to test this new market.
- OverDrive offers e-books from the top publishers, and they each cost about ¼ to 1/3 of the price of a downloadable audiobook.
- We do not have to pay a platform charge because e-books can be added to our existing OverDrive platform, so any money put into it goes directly to content.

Recommendation: The Central Library / Collection Development Advisory Committee recommends we move forward to start a system-wide e-book collection, with all items available to patrons from all libraries and all items in the catalog, through \$50 from each library now plus \$2,000 of Central Library Collection Development funds (available when the money comes in from the state). This would target making the e-books available by mid-November.

Status: New Business in September, Action Item in October.