

MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM
Central Library / Collection Development Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: May 9, 2023

Location: Zoom

Committee members attending:

- Emily Chameides (Columbia)
- Tobi Farley (Columbia)
- Daniela Pulice (Dutchess)
- Courtney Tsahalis (Dutchess)
- Catherine Benson (Greene)

- Maureen Garcia (Greene)
- Carol Donick (Putnam)
- Stephanie Harrison (Putnam)
- Mary Collins (Ulster)
- Katie Scott-Childress (Ulster)

Staff Attending: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (MHLS), Laurie Shedrick (MHLS), Nina Acosta (MHLS), Tom Lawrence (PPLD)

Others Attending:

Minutes from January 2023 meeting reviewed and approved by Tobi, seconded by Katie. Passed unanimously, except for Mary who abstained as she was not at the January meeting.

Discussion Items:

1. Language Learning e-Resource Review & Discussion

- a. Mango is what we currently offer (expires end of July), Duolingo never responded, Rocket Languages and Transparent Languages were also reviewed.
- b. Transparent Languages came out on top – good at starting with fundamentals, fun/gamification, good reinforcement of learning, easy to do in small chunks, 100+ languages, 30+ ESL courses, ability to get individual library-level stats. Transparent Languages was already launched in Ulster County.
- c. Tom asked about authentication. Ulster County has been using barcode prefix. Laurie said she would suggest using API; she said Transparent Language is very flexible.
- d. County feedback: All five counties are in favor of keeping a language database and was in favor of switching to Transparent Language.
- e. Next steps: contract would need to be finalized and authentication set up. Laurie says that turnaround time should be quick; with Ulster County took a week or two. There would be some overlap with Mango service.
- f. Motion to approve moving forward with signing a contract with Transparent Language made by Katie, second by Carol. Passed unanimously.

2. NYS Budget Update re: NOVEL NY

- a. Federal library funding to the NYS has been fairly flat. State Librarian plans to utilize Federal funds towards operations of State Library, meaning a loss of funding and thus end for NOVEL NY with an intended end date of June 30, 2024. School librarians have activated to support keeping NOVEL NY.
- b. Tom noted that it is hard to know who is using it. Laurie said that anecdotally we know that it is being used by reference librarians.
- c. Rebekkah encouraged county associations to discuss these collections and the funding issue.

3. 2023 Central Library Services Aid (CLSA) Budget

- a. Funding saved through switch from Mango to Transparent Language will free up some funding for OverDrive (see later note re: Vega/ReciteMe).

- b. Tom asked re: budget amount for Universal Class. Laurie verified that we should budget \$7,500, though it is possible that we will be able to benefit from another sale.
- c. Tom asked re: OverDrive how we want to make decisions about what to purchase now that Central Library funds can be put towards fiction and children's materials. Agreed to focus on the highest consortia ratio to help bring down wait time for items.
- d. With Vega we will be able to add ReciteMe; we should keep that on our radar as a possible Central Library expense. Would need an updated quote: \$4,995 for 1 year, 5% discount for two years paid up front, and 10% discount three years. This would potentially change funding available for OverDrive. Catherine Benson made a motion to commit to one year of Vega, seconded by Katie, passed unanimously.

4. Adding Podcasts to the MHLS Catalog

- a. Discussion on how this would work, how would we decide what could be added to the catalog, do other libraries do this, how does this compare with resources such as NY Heritage/HRVH.
- b. Tabled this for now, with the suggestion that libraries who wish to share podcasts in the meantime could share via their own websites as a suggested podcasts list or suggested resources list that includes podcasts.

Motion to adjourn made by Daniela at 12:44pm; seconded by Tobi; passed unanimously.