

Ad-Hoc OverDrive Committee Meeting Notes - 5/16/2023 1:30 PM

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Stephanie Harrison

In Attendance:

Columbia: Matt Pavloff, Kinderhook Memorial Library; Tamara Gaskell, Roeliff Jansen Community Library; Tobi Farley, Philmont Public Library

Dutchess: Carol Fortier, Beekman Library; Carol Bancroft, Clinton Community Library; Mary DeBellis, LaGrange Association Library; Courtney Tsahalis, Millbrook Library; Daniela Pulice, Pleasant Valley Library

Greene: Catherine Benson, Heermance Memorial Library; Jen Grounds, Heermance Memorial Library; Katie Scott-Childress, Rosendale Library

Putnam: Stephanie Harrison, Patterson Library (Chair)

Ulster: Gillian Murphy, Elting Memorial Library; Julie Kelsall-Dempsey, Highland Public Library

MHLS: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Laurie Shedrick, Nina Acosta

Charge of the Ad Hoc Committee: wording was reviewed in the 2022 report and on the MHLS website. A combination of these two charge definitions is preferable, with removal of wording about being behind other library systems in OverDrive purchasing. Motioned by Julie, seconded by Matt; approved unanimously.

Central Library/Collection Development Advisory Committee Report: discussion regarding Central Library Services Program aid expenditures on OverDrive. The committee reviewed the decision at the most recent Central Library Committee meeting to spend designated Overdrive funds on titles with the highest holds ratio to help bring down the wait times for titles. A discussion ensued regarding if this method would actually best meet patrons' demand for popular items.

County Feedback on the Impact of the 2022 Final Report of the Ad Hoc Committee: the report was viewed favorably by each county and the consensus is that it is useful in guiding equitable spending. It will be most helpful for the spending report to be run regularly at intervals favorable to the annual budget planning process and working with Boards for funding.

Resource Sharing Advisory Committee Report on the Cost Per Click Topic: the main premise of the policy is that as long as a library is meeting their OverDrive spending requirements, CPC copies may be purchased, with exceptions for book club titles. More information from the Ad Hoc Committee is desired for wording of the CPC policy, e.g, description of spending criteria (holds-to-purchase ratio met, 1st purchase a sharable copy, etc...) and the timeline for review of adhering to the criteria. A discussion ensued regarding the best timing for distribution of the spending report for budget planning, as fiscal years vary across the libraries.

The Ad Hoc Committee agreed on a time period that will work for most libraries: MHLS to run and distribute the report in April and November with the previous 6 months spending data, reviewed at each Ad Hoc committee meeting.

Review of 2022 Spending Report to Assess Member Progress on Spending: There has been a significant increase in the percentage of libraries meeting their spending requirement, or working towards it, from that in 2021, given the short time period they had to meet the criteria. A discussion was held regarding how to enforce the OD spending procedures. Libraries will initially get phone calls from MHLS, but ultimately the violation process currently in place by Resource Sharing will be followed.

Next Steps for the Committee: Will meet in November to review the 2023 spending report sent to the libraries.

Meeting adjourned at 3:09 pm – motioned by Mary, seconded by Tobi

Submitted by Mary M. De Bellis