

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

Date: November 1, 2024

Location: Adriance Memorial Library

Committee members attending:

Emily Chameides (Columbia)
 Rain Whittaker (Columbia)
 Daniela Pulice (Dutchess)
 Courtney Tsahalis (Dutchess)
 Catherine Benson (Greene)

Corinne Tatavitto (Putnam)
 Dede Farabaugh (Putnam)
 Amina Chaudhri (Putnam)
 Ivy Gocker (Ulster)
 Jesse Chance (Ulster)

MHLS Staff Attending: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Laura Crisci, Laurie Shedrick

Others Attending: Tom Lawrence (PPLD)

Minutes from the May 2024 meeting were reviewed and approved. Motion made by Ivy, seconded by Courtney, passed unanimously.

Discussion Items:

1. Central Library Budget Update (T. Lawrence)

- a. Central Library funding arrived. Tom is planning to purchase OverDrive content credit with remaining contingency. The committee discussed how many credits we want to put towards e-resources in 2024 versus reserving for 2025. Consensus is to focus on bestsellers with long wait times for 2024 purchasing and to split funding by month. Tom noted that Kristin at OverDrive can create a custom report for libraries with a list of titles in their holdings, holds on their titles, and what their patrons are borrowing from other collections to help libraries in making OverDrive collection development decisions at a local level. Daniela noted that the Overdrive AdHoc Committee is meeting soon and there is a request to create a report on hold times for each library's patrons.
- b. The committee reviewed the 2025 Central Library Services Aid budget. Databases: 2.5% increase in Transparent Languages. Dede mentioned that New Yorkers can get a free Coursera membership through the New York State Department of Labor – worth looking into if libraries get feedback from patrons missing Universal Class (Ulster still subscribes).

2. State Funding Update: Rebekkah noted that this could be a tight funding year with departments/entities told to request flat funding.

3. Annual Review of Guidelines for OverDrive Collection Developed with Central Library Service Aid Funds: The committee discussed 4b which notes weeding of the shared collection of non-fiction titles annually for titles containing outdated, inaccurate and obsolete information (e.g. health info, exam prep, software and tech guides, travel guides). Is this happening? If not, should it be included? Consensus was to leave it here as it is best practice and supports central selectors in doing this work. Document to be updated with review date. The committee also discussed the challenge of balancing the increase in demand for both e-resources and print, as well as the need for weeding of outdated information in our print collections.

4. Training Needs: Laurie presented a training proposal for 2025. Committee approved and suggested scheduling dates for after the annual report deadline.

5. Hoopla content issue: Laura shared the findings of Library Futures, a national advocacy organization that conducted focus groups this year with libraries from across the country. The discussions revealed

that there are widespread concerns about “junk content” in the Hoopla collection that libraries have little control over. Complaints included large quantities of self-published books and AI-generated content that are unvetted by libraries or reviewers. There were also reports of children’s nonfiction books with links that led to pornography or spam sites. The committee will bring an action item to the DA recommending that member libraries allow MHLS staff to reach out to Hoopla on our behalf to inquire what Hoopla’s stance on these findings are, what their collection development policy is, and what they plan to do in the future to address our concerns.

6. 2025 Committee Officers: Our 2025 officers will be as follows:
 - a. Chair – Daniela Pulice, Pleasant Valley Library (Dutchess)
 - b. Secretary – Emily Chameides, Hudson Area Library (Columbia)

Motion to adjourn made by Catherine at 12:03pm, seconded by Jesse; passed unanimously.

To include in DA Business Meeting Agenda Attachment as an Action Item:

- **Title:** Authorization for MHLS Staff to Contact Hoopla on Member Libraries’ Behalf
- **Background:** 98% of MHLS member libraries have a contract with Midwest Tape, the vendor of the eResource Hoopla, to provide streaming audiobooks, music, video, and eBooks. Records for Hoopla items are in the shared MHLS catalog.
- **Issue:** Library Futures, a national advocacy organization, has conducted focus groups this year with libraries from across the country that revealed that there are widespread concerns about “junk content” in the Hoopla collection that libraries have little control over. Complaints included large quantities of self-published books and AI-generated content that are unvetted by libraries or reviewers. There were also reports of children’s nonfiction books with links that led to pornography or spam sites. [See attachment: “Hoopla’s Junk Content Problem: What You Can Do”]
- **Recommendation:** The Central Library / Collection Development Advisory Committee recommends that member libraries allow MHLS staff to reach out to Hoopla on our behalf to inquire what Hoopla’s stance on these findings is, what their collection development policy is, and what they plan to do in the future to address our concerns.
- **Status:** Discussed at the 11.1.2024 meeting of the Central Library / Collection Development Advisory Committee; action item for 11.13 DA meeting.