

Adult Services Advisory Council
August Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Tom Barnes (GUIL), Jo-Ann Benedetti (UHLS), Debbie Canzano (COHS), Michael Catoggio (EGRN), Suzanne Fisher (VOOR), Rebecca Lubin (RVLL), Jane Minotti (SNLK), Katie Quinn (APLM), Mary Trev Thomas (BETH), Judith Wines (ALTM)

Federated Searching:

The group looked at pricing that Aquabrowser gave us for adding their software and Web Feat to our databases/OPAC. It is very expensive. Tom said that federated searching confuses some people by adding another layer to the interface. Katie said that APLM is a test site for Web Feat and she is not all that impressed. It is a great idea, but perhaps not yet ready for primetime. Those who want to take a look at it can go to Queens Borough Public Library to try it out.

Federated search software is worth looking at, but we are not ready to make a move this year. We should spend the next year looking at competing products and seeing where the industry goes. Waldo is still planning on having a workshop on federated searching in the fall. The group should plan to attend.

Overdrive:

Jo-Ann gave an update of what happened at the Overdrive meeting in Cleveland. There are new devices coming out, now publishers on board, training modules being developed, and a new collection development interface on the way. Overdrive is offering 256K MP3 players for \$33 and 1G players for \$55. Some libraries are buying these for training, others are downloading books onto them and loaning the MP3 player with book to patrons. The conference was well worth it and others should try to go next year.

Jo-Ann will call Overdrive to find out when the customer training module will be available, when the easier ordering interface will become available, and she will get more information on the "Download Station."

There is also group interest in titles that are always available. Overdrive calls these titles "Maximum Access" titles and although these have to be renewed every year, they can be downloaded by an unlimited number of patrons at once. Jo-Ann will try to get sample pricing and titles.

Databases for 2007

The group looked at statistics for Jan-Aug 2006. The group already decided to recommend to ASAC that we keep the existing databases. The usage may not be as high as expected because 1. we are counting just logins and not searches and 2. people are just getting used to the new databases.

Suzanne asked if it was true that we may not get any databases this year. The dilemma faced by APLM and Central Library Advisory Committee was explained. Some libraries

would prefer to get DVDs rather than databases from the Central Library. The group needs to let their directors know how they feel about this and where they stand. The next meeting of the Central Library Advisory Council will be September 12.

Big Read Grant

The Big Read grant has been submitted and we should hear sometime in November.

Next meeting

A poll was taken on the best day to hold meetings. Friday got the most votes. Meetings were set up for the rest of the year:

Sept 26 (Tuesday)

Oct 13 (Friday)

Nov 10 (Friday)

Dec 8 (Friday)