

## **Adult Services Advisory Council**

September, 2007

Meeting Notes

### ***Attendees:***

Jo-Ann Benedetti (UHLS), Debbie Canzano (COHS), Suzanne Fisher (VOOR), McCair Hill (VOOR), Margaret Lanoue (GUIL), Candy Wilson (RVLL), , Gordon Noble (BETH), Maureen Sullivan (BETH)

### ***Database Trials***

The group reviewed each of the trial databases and made the following observations:

#### Literary Reference Center (EBSCO)

Reviews were mixed on this. The search engine is a bit clumsy. The advanced "title" and "author" search is not intuitive because the author they want is the author of the criticism, not the author of the work. Gales LRC has a better search interface and a better search engine. It also offers relevant outside links. The EBSCO product includes better criticisms. It includes Masterplots I and II and Bloom's. Both are good products, each has its strengths.

#### Novelist

Most libraries agreed that they would love to have this. BETH said they would purchase it themselves if UHLS doesn't. COHS and RVLL both said it was very patron-friendly, and they would like to have it. VOOR said that their collection is small, and Novelist will bring patrons to items not in their collection. They like to send their patrons home with a book in hand, rather than telling them to wait for a book.

#### Auto Repair Reference Center vs, Chilton

G. Noble questioned whether or not this was too much of a niche database. He can see the staff using it on behalf of the patrons. Jo-Ann said she received 2 different emails from 2 different librarians on the auto repair databases: one liked the EBSCO database, the other preferred the Chilton (Gale). Chilton has the name recognition. It is also 1/3 the cost of the EBSCO database.

#### Home Improvement Reference Center

VOOR has this database and likes it a lot. It is also easy to market. (They did a display with bookmarks advertising the database and paint cans, etc.) The pdf's are good but take a long time to load. Again, it was considered a niche product. D. Canzano thinks that it is good to have some databases that the patrons will find really useful, and these "do it yourself" databases would be used by her patrons.

#### Small Engine Repair

Everyone liked this database. D. Canzano said she gets requests for small engine repair all the time. M. Lanoue said the books are hard to keep up with. BETH liked the content.

#### Heritage Quest

G. Noble said that BETH subscribes to this along with Ancestry.com, its sister product. HeritageQuest has gaps in the census data, and has some odd records (e.g. Revolutionary War Pensions and Bounty Land Warrant Applications). It does, however, have full-text books on family histories, includes PERSI (although this is just an index) and it offers remote access. Heritage Quest, is not as good as Ancestry.com and Proquest offers HeritageQuest for a few dollars more if one subscribes to Ancestry.com.

#### Other databases:

The group also received feedback from their youth services librarians. BETH and GUIL both agreed that the librarians loved Grolier, but G. Noble reminded the group that UHLS had it before and it had such little use, we had to drop it. BETH also had to drop it because of the little use it got. M. Lanoue said that the youth services people at GUIL preferred KidsSearch over Kids Info Bits.

#### **Existing Database Statistics**

The group examined the current database statistics up through August, 2007. J. Benedetti explained that UHLS statistics count "logins" while many of the database vendors track "searches" or "sessions". She gave an example where one person did 7 "searches" within 10 minutes. UHLS would count that at one session because there was only one login from one IP address, but the database vendor considers it 7 sessions.

S. Fisher said that one should not look at database statistics/usage because we do not track usage of reference books. Many databases, (such as the literature databases) are also good to have because we no longer carry the print, e.g. *Contemporary Authors*, and *Dictionary of Literary Biography*. Therefore usage is not necessarily the only criterion on what we should base a purchase.

#### Recommendations:

The following is a list of databases and the recommendations:

American History Online – no  
Reference USA – yes/unanimous  
Biography – yes (libraries were split)  
Literature db – yes, but which one depends on who can give us the better price  
Book Review Index – no (it was felt this information could be obtained elsewhere)  
Testing and Education Center – yes  
NYS Legal Forms – yes. It is inexpensive and is good to have  
Children's Literature Comprehensive database 72% of the use is by BETH. Group suggests BETH buy a copy.  
Novelist – yes.  
Auto Repair – yes, either is ok...negotiate the price.

Suggested package:

Reference USA - \$27,800

Ebsco Literary Reference Center – \$13,400 (or Gale if the price is right)

Testing and Education – \$5305

NYS Legal Forms – \$2195

Novelist – \$14,000

Gale Biography Resource Center – \$12,427

Chilton – 4,245

Total: \$79,372

The group suggests Central Library Advisory Committee also purchase more content for Overdrive.

Jo-Ann will call the database vendors and see if we can do better on prices.

### ***Playaway***

J. Benedetti showed the group a Playaway audiobook and said that libraries within UHLS can get a discount if they use a code when ordering. M. Sullivan said they offer them to patrons, but that the list of available titles is limited.

### ***Next meeting***

The next meeting will be on October 23, 2007 at 9:30.