

**Adult Services Advisory Council
June 26, 2009 Meeting Notes**

Attendees:

Jo-Ann Benedetti (UHLS), Maureen Brown (BETH), Debbie Canzano (COHS), Carolyn Fagan (TROY), Judy Felsten (RCSC) Macaire Hill (VOOR), Margaret Lanoue (GUIL), Alissa Oakley (BETH), Lois Papp (EGRN), Chris Sagaas (APLM), Pat Sahr (NASS), Candy Wilson (RVLL), Judith Wines (ALTM), Julie Zelman (BRUN)

2009 Databases / Budget:

The Central Library Advisory Council met last year to approve spending on databases. We do not yet have the monies for 2009, but we know the funding will be reduced from last year. Unfortunately, we do not know at this time how much funding will be reduced, nor do we know which programs/services will be targeted. At this time, the discussion is not about which databases we should add, but rather, what we willing to give up next year.

Discussion followed.

Many of the databases are not for patron use, but rather for librarian use. Gale's Book Review Index is one such database. There are book reviews all over the Internet, on Amazon, in Horizon, etc., and this is something we could easily drop. Testing and Education Center, however, represents a core service that libraries provide, and this should be kept. Some believed that Gale Legal Forms could be dropped, since most of the legal forms can be found in either the NOLO books or online. Others like the currency of the oline database. Final vote was split with half saying we should keep it and half suggesting we can let this database go.

Reference USA replaces a number of company and business books and is used quite a bit. C. Sagaas goes to the Chamber of Commerce to show it off to groups. People use it to write to company CEO's, and compile lists of local companies. J. Zelman used to generate a list of local businesses to target for donations. It is expensive but useful.

M. Hill suggested that a good literature database would be more useful than Reference USA. People come to the library to do homework and a literature database would fill this need. The Gale literature database is the best, but if cost is prohibitive, Ebsco's would work too. J. Benedetti reminded the group that there will likely be no money for an expensive database such as this. M. Lanoue asked if we could have a "mini" database group for the libraries that want a few databases, and J. Benedetti could negotiate on their behalf. J. Benedetti will do this over the summer and negotiate prices with the vendors.

Ebsco's Career Library / Gale's Career Transitions

Ebsco is pushing for us to purchase their Career Library Database. J. Benedetti passed out the link to this database which will be active until the end of the year. Gale sent along information about their "Career Transitions" database. Vendors seem to think that this is a way to stay relevant.

Overdrive

Overdrive sent out a newsletter recently indicating that a new version of their Media Console will make most of their audiobooks iPod compatible. M. Hill indicated that she saw this at the New York Book Fair, and the new version will mean downloading a book with “2 clicks” of the mouse. This is not yet available, but Overdrive claims it will be available by the end of the month. This would increase the usage significantly.

J. Benedetti indicated that by making some books “max access”, records in Horizon need to be deleted when the subscription runs out. L. Papp asked if we ever delete Audiobooks that are not checked out, and the answer is “no”.

M. Hill asked if we could run a report that ties demographic profiles culled from patron records with audiobook titles or genres. J. Benedetti knew of no such report, and said that patron borrowing records are usually purged when a book is returned. M. Hill said that patron records are linked for about a month after a book is returned. M. Brown and D. Canzano had concerns about patron privacy if we were to do this. J. Benedetti said she would ask if this is a report that could be run.

Department of Labor

Alissa Oakley attended a reference meeting and learned of training offered by the NYS Department of Labor for job seekers. Debbie Canzano went to this training at a local BOCES and said it was worthwhile. J. Benedetti said she would contract the DOL and see if she can arrange training for our librarians.

Large Print Books

J. Benedetti reminded the group that we have large print books available in rotating collections. Four collections are here at UHLS. If any library wants large print books, please let Jo-Ann know so that we can get these books out of UHLS and into the patron’s hands.

Grants

- A. Big Read: United Way applied for and received \$20,000 for a Big Read grant. UHLS was the library “partner.” United Way determined that they could not devote the time/energy to the grant this year and asked if UHLS would take it over. UHLS refused, and United Way then refused the award.
- B. Fit for Life: Grant is ongoing. P. Sahr said that most programming fits in the “Fit for Life” rubric. J. Benedetti filed an interim report and will call a meeting sometime over the summer for an update of FFL activities.
- C. NYLA & Literacy: NYLA Director Michael Borges sent an email to System Directors about a potential \$3,000,000 literacy grant – with each System receiving \$150,000. There were many questions/concerns about this: “Where is the money coming from?” “Why are we competing with Literacy Volunteers?” “This is outside NYLA’s mission.”
- D. Phil Ritter and J. Benedetti will be in on a conference call on Wednesday, July 1st to get answers to some questions.

Other

M. Hill asked how other libraries shelved their Adult Graphic Novels. Answers include, "separate them out of the collection", "integrate them with fiction", "all graphic novels are together...adult and teen".