

Adult Services Advisory Council

Notes

7/22/2011

Attendees: J. Benedetti (UHLS), M. Brown (BETH), T. Burke (UHLS), S. Fisher (VOOR), D. LaGue (TROY), M. Lanoue (GUIL), L. Papp (EGRN), A. Pekar (CAST), J. Petrosillo (BERN), P. Sahr (NASS), J. Wines (ALTM).

Overdrive Update

J. Benedetti updated the group on updates to Overdrive including now being able to save your library card number on the mobile app, and the ability to return eBooks early. A discussion ensued about eBooks, audiobooks and shorter lending periods. To recap: You can choose your lending period with audiobooks and ebooks, but only ebooks can be returned early at this time.

Overdrive will be holding online trainings in September and October of 2011. J. Benedetti encouraged the group to share the information with their colleagues. The training is very good, and is offered multiple times so that the maximum number of people can benefit.

There is now DRM-free content available from Overdrive. This content is from smaller publishers. To search for these titles, use advanced search and under format select "open ePub" or open PDF." Also there are more publishers providing max access titles.

M. Brown asked if anyone heard anything about the court case about Overdrive. (To recap: The state librarian of Kansas is asserting that the consortium has purchased, its ebook content from OverDrive and, therefore, has the right to transfer the content to a new service provider.) No one at the table knew the status of this case.

Databases

AtoZ Database is a direct competitor to Reference USA. The company is aggressively marketing their product and has offered UHLS libraries a free trial. Go to www.atozdatabases.com. Go to the lower right hand of this page and click on admin sign in. Enter jo-ann@uhls.lib.ny.us as the username and use the UHLS password.

Freegal has contacted Tim Burke about a System-wide purchase of their product. M. Lanoue described the two possible models: a purchased "bundle" or a subscription package. The patron then owns the downloaded music. Freegal is also offering Freader – downloadable books that the patron now owns. T. Burke told how easy it was to download an MP3 from the service. He also said that Freegal is marketing itself as a way for people to use the library's website. J. Benedetti and A. Pekar said that they had concerns about offering fee music or free books to patrons which were paid for with tax dollars.

M. Lanoue asked the group if anyone had an online site for downloading legal forms since we no longer subscribe to Gale's Legal Forms. No one offered a specific site they used. A. Pekar suggested the Small Business Development Center.

T. Burke asked if Mango and Ancestry/HeritageQuest, the two databases paid for with Central Library money, were being used and if anyone had anecdotal stories. Many agreed that the databases were well used. P. Sahr said that Ancestry is not only used, but people don't mind coming into the library to access it. J. Benedetti offered that she would have statistics regarding the usage of both databases before the central library meeting in September/October.

M. Brown told the group that BETH contacted Ebsco and that they have offered the library *Consumer Reports* inexpensively. This might be a good option since NOVEL databases embargo the publication. J. Benedetti said she would contact Ebsco to see if they could offer consortial pricing.

VuFind

Everyone had positive things to say about VuFind. Patrons as a rule don't seem to react to changes in the catalog interface (with the exception of one patron at NASS who voiced her displeasure at losing Aquabrowser). A. Pekar likes VuFind and says her staff and patrons caught on quickly. J. Petrosillo noted that when she needs to verify a title/author, she runs the search in Amazon, then goes to the catalog. Wishes the UHLS catalog could be as robust as Amazon.

Training

The group was queried about their training needs.

- A. J. Benedetti said that someone at a member library suggested collection development training in genre fiction such as romance, sci fi, fantasy, etc. UHLS could gather some of the talented librarians throughout the System and offer a day of training in the different areas.

The group liked the idea and suggested a list of genres that they would like to see covered. The group also suggested that this be done as a series of classes rather than a day-long workshop, since some people may not be able to take an entire day to attend. Others suggested that once a "saturation" point is reached, people may not retain the info. J. Benedetti will create a questionnaire so that UHLS may respond to the topics and dates that work the best.

- B. One of our members suggested that UHLS host a webinar on "The Rights of Readers and the Threat of the Kindle" to be broadcast next Wednesday, July 27 at 1:00 PM. The group was queried for their interest, and three people said this might interest them or their staff.
- C. UHLS is considering repeating a program that was done at NYLA last year entitled "How to Interact with Mentally Ill Patrons." The program was so successful, that NYLA is repeating the session this year. However, since everyone does not have the chance to go to NYLA, this would be something that UHLS should provide. Everyone thought this would be worthwhile.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the last week of August/Beginning of September. J. Benedetti will query everyone for the best date.