

Adult Services Advisory Council

Minutes

March 23, 2012

Attendance: J. Benedetti (UHLS), L. Burns (TROY), M. Brown (BETH), S. Hoadley (WSTR), S. Fisher (VOOR), M. Fowler (SNLK), M. Lanoue (GUIL), J. Nash (COLN), L. Neuman (MEND), L. Papp (EGRN), J. Petrosillo (BERN), Bryan Rowzee (RCSC), P. Sahr (NASS), F. Somers (BETH)

OverDrive updates

J. Benedetti explained to the group the function of the ad hoc e-content committee of the Directors Association. Jo-Ann passed out a synopsis of the collection analysis done at the end of 2011 and a discussion followed. There was a great deal of interest in what was popular and what not. S. Fisher pointed out that although travel guides seem to be a good match for e-books, they, in fact have a format which does not translate well to e-readers. For example, many travel guides are browsed randomly or have pullout maps or charts. L. Burns questioned the popularity of urban fiction and graphic novels.

The discussion then turned to publishers and the seemingly random nature of publishers, first allowing, and then pulling their titles from OverDrive. M. Brown wondered if we should re-visit the HarperCollins boycott. Since many publishers are setting hard limits to the accessibility of their titles, HarperCollins seems reasonable with their 26-checkout limit. The group wondered about who would keep up with the cataloguing, i.e. who would maintain accuracy in Horizon. Many agreed that perhaps we should not put OverDrive titles into Horizon. S. Clark wondered what the 27th person would see once a title expired. J. Benedetti noted that the System has paid more than \$12,000 for MARC records. Many agreed that that money could have been used to purchase content. J. Benedetti will make sure that these concerns are brought to the next directors meeting.

J. Benedetti then demonstrated OverDrive's Marketplace and the flexibility we now have to choose subject headings. The group wondered if we could change subject headings retrospectively. Jo-Ann will check.

J. Benedetti passed out information concerning OverDrive's WIN program. OverDrive offers the ability for patrons to suggest titles, order titles directly from a vendor with the library getting a percentage of the purchase price, or to create "smart lists"...an automated, customizable selection tool. It is "live" at a number of larger sites (New York Public, Cleveland Public). This is coming down the road soon.

The popularity of downloadable books has necessitated increased training. J. Benedetti offered her services as a trainer if any library needed help with this. UHLS owns several e-readers and Jo-Ann demonstrates each of them.

The discussion then turned to collection development. J. Benedetti explained the Advantage Program and the “gentleman’s agreement” that this be used for ordering extra copies of popular titles. The group then looked at statistics that the ad hoc collection development team developed and the analysis of our collection. Lively discussion followed about our content and the responsibility of our member libraries to maintain a healthy collection. S. Fisher noted that travel guides do not translate well into an e-book format because of pull-out maps and the browsing difficulty. Laurie Burns mentioned that popular graphic novels are not available in OverDrive, and the ones we ordered 7 years ago are not compelling. Picture books need to be improved. The group realizes that once a title is purchased, there is not an easy way to “weed”, so trying to make sound purchase decisions is important.

OverDrive support is becoming a bigger issue. J. Benedetti described to the group how to go into OverDrive support to request that OverDrive consolidate old library card holds with a new card. This is a common support question that each library should be able to handle for the patron.

LSTA

J. Benedetti described an upcoming series of programs on digital books. UHLS is hoping to get Nora Rawlinson from earlyword.com, and an author that chooses to publish only in e-book format. We also hope to get an author who does not go through traditional publishing houses, but instead releases books in e-format only. The group suggested various authors and Jo-Ann will followup.

Other

J. Benedetti announced a day-long workshop at WSWHE BOCES on digital books, sponsored by CDLC’s Committee on Resource Sharing.

M. Lanoue suggested we contact EBSCO for a group price on Consumer reports. Jo-Ann will follow up.

S. Fisher asked the group for their opinions on book club titles that have great press, but are not good reads.