



# UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

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## UHLS ad hoc Committee on E-Content Collection Development

### Meeting minutes - approved

1/20/12

Members in Attendance: Amy Pekar (CAST) - Chair, Jo-Ann Benedetti (UHLS), Richard Naylor (COLN), Julie Zelman (BRUN), Tim Burke (UHLS) - ex officio non-voting

#### **Note - Tasks are highlighted in bold**

- 1) A. Pekar called the meeting to order at 9:10am.
- 2) The committee reviewed the minutes from the 12/15/11 meeting. J. Benedetti made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. R. Naylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3) Committee members shared the results of their e-content collection analysis for discussion by the group.

#### J. Zelman (Psych - Z)

- Dramatically higher circulation across the section in the last two months (“X-mas effect”)
- The reference section did not circ well and included a series of “weird computer study guides” for specific computer programs that did not circ at all.
- The YA non-fiction section was almost all video content
- The travel guides did not circ as much as expected, but many of the titles are recently added, so we should wait and see how they do going forward.
- 2 areas that need more content -
  - True Crime (763 titles available from O-drive, but we only own 18 titles and they have circulated 191 times).
  - Westerns

#### Amy Pekar (L-PR)

- Self-improvement was the highest circ’ing section in this group
- Biographies and autobiographies were also very popular



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- Management and medicine titles did not circ well

## J. Benedetti (A-E)

- We need to add more to the video collection by getting titles from A&E, PBS, BBC, etc. (which are all available from O-drive) and not try to "compete with Netflix" by building the collection with feature film content
- The display technology of most readers, while getting better, is not up to the task to make art, photography, visual arts titles very useful in the e-content collection.
- Biography is very popular, but not the dead celebrities
- In business, leadership and management titles do well, but the more practical titles-how to write a business plan, small business start up, resume writing, etc. do not circ. well.
- The importance of sensitivity to user demographics must be reflected in the committee's guidelines.
- 76 "...for Dummies" titles are in the e-content collection, but 66% of them are on the shelf. The format of those books (the text doesn't read in a linear way, a lot of sidebars, etc.) doesn't lend themselves to e-reading.
- "if you can Google the information, then don't buy the e-book"
- The urban fiction section needs to be beefed up.
- There was a discussion about erotic literature - the committee came to the conclusion that we should continue to build it, but not focus any more attention on it than any of the other well-circ'ing sections.

## R. Naylor (F-L)

- Self-help does well.
- The collection should have broad, but shallow coverage in the Languages. We have the mango d-base for deeper coverage of specific languages.
- The gardening collection needs to be increased to give us useful circ. stats for this subject.
- Juvenile fiction, non-fiction, and literature all are circulation well and we should be adding more to that subject.



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- 4) The 2/3 presentation after the Director's Association meeting was discussed.
  - **J. Benedetti is still working on the presentation, but if time permits, will share an outline of the presentation with the committee in advance of 2/3.**
  - **A. Peker volunteered to assist JB to create a "highlights/lowlights" list from the collection analysis project to be shared as part of the 2/3 presentation.**
  
- 5) In the general discussion a few points were made:
  - The committee should request that a representative or representatives from the central library attend a future meeting with the committee to discuss how we will work together on e-content collection development.
  - R. Naylor suggested that the committee advise member libraries to "frontload" their e-content purchasing into the first half of 2012, as much as possible, to counterbalance the delayed delivery of NYS central library funds to APL.
  - We need to push O-drive to allow renewals of e-content that does not have any requests on it. **J. Benedetti said that she would check with O-drive to see where they were on that question.**
  - It would be useful for member libraries to receive a quarterly report from UHLS on the e-content collection and its circ. activity, and UHLS should also do an annual "State of the e-content collection" report for members.
  - R. Naylor discussed the possibility of legal action to combat the decision of several major publishers to withhold e-content from libraries. The committee discussed the various advocacy efforts by ALA, etc. that are currently underway. J. Benedetti mentioned the possibility of using the upcoming PLA conference as a place to investigate the possibilities for further action on this issue and have face to face meetings with the various players (publishers, ALA, O-drive, etc.).
  
- 6) The next meeting will be held on Friday, February 17, 2012 at 9:00am in the Large Meeting Room at UHLS.
  
- 7) The meeting adjourned at 11:15am.



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