

Minutes for E-Content Committee, March 25, 2015

Meeting started at 3 PM.

Attending: Amy Peker, Judith Wines, Jane Chirgwin, Jo-Ann Benedetti, Lenny Zapala, Richard Naylor, Deanna Dicarolo, Matt Graff, Laurene Teachout

Minutes reviewed and approved.

2015 Selection Guidelines:

Discussion of guidelines- who are they for? It is a collection development policy to be used by the entire system. Jo-Ann will use them in training, but explain that while Central library funds follow the ratios carefully for financial reasons, libraries are free to buy more copies beyond that holds-to-price ratio formula. Overdrive has stated that we are the only system with a collection development policy. Richard suggested that the Central Library should be de-emphasized in the document.

Jo-Ann will hold an E-book selection class on April 17th at UHLS. The committee was asked to complete their subject analysis assignment before the class so that Jo-Ann would have up to date information.

Some of the subject headings are inaccurate. Jo-Ann explained that these headings can be changed at time of purchase, and will remind her class of that. Another important reminder from selection guidelines is the set naming conventions for shopping carts.

Penguin titles should only be purchased for trending items with a short shelf-life.

Subject Analysis

Chart- subject headings, total copies purchased in last two years, active checkouts, total checkouts, and turnover rate. There are 144 subject headings, with 27 that have not been used in past two years. Jane said that it was odd nothing had been labeled as Horror in that time frame. Richard said seeing what percentage of a total collection is currently checked out is helpful. Annual turnover rate would be helpful, but it would be too time consuming to do.

Some subject headings had only a few items in them, which skews their turnover rate. It is possible that items have multiple subject headings.

Jo-Ann will assign categories to committee members to cover for subject analysis. Fiction and Nonfiction will not be included because they are too broad. Some subject headings are for video only. Members will look at category collection, current check-outs, variety of coverage, quality of items (do they need weeding) and holes in collection. Give the category a grade.

Statistics

Chart- Chris Herpers provided an efficiency chart, which shows format, audience, copies owned, % of total digital collection, circulation, % of total circulation, holds, circs per copy, holds per copy, and efficiency index, which shows how well that particular category is doing comparative to the whole. This makes it clear that the most efficient categories are audiobooks, both fiction of all ages and adult nonfiction. Audio adult fiction had the highest efficiency at 158%. Adult nonfiction Audio is at 103%. The committee discussed adding a different ratio formula for audiobooks in the selection guidelines, as they are often more expensive. This was decided against, in favor of just encouraging more audiobook purchasing. Nonfiction ebooks are not as efficient as the rest of the categories.

Return on Investment: we increased our spending 5% last year, and our circulation went up 31%

We have 33,000 copies of digital items, and we circulate about 25,000 items a month.

Our libraries are spending approximately 11% of their budgets on Overdrive.

How many UHLS card holders are Overdrive users? Approximately 14,000.

Both YA and Audiobook circulation went up 40%., and Spanish went up 277%.

Judith said that it is encouraging that only 36% of items circulated after being on hold, which means 64% were circulated without any waiting. Patrons were either able to get their first choice or were not discouraged by a second-choice item. Richard said that we should keep adding to the collection so that we continue to have a variety of quality choices.

Matt asked if we should conduct a survey (5 yes/no questions) to determine patron opinions. Amy was concerned about Overdrive handling this information.

Dedications:

Jo-Ann will investigate if ebook dedications (in memory of...) are still possible to do.

Sierra:

Patrons can now check out digital items directly from the catalog. This might cause some confusion if they download an item to their computer instead of to their device, but the item will be on their Overdrive account to download later.

Motion to adjourn by Judith, seconded by Jo-Ann, meeting adjourned 4:40 PM.