

MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM
Ad Hoc Committee on OverDrive Meeting

Date: September 6, 2022

Location: Online

Committee members attending:

Columbia County

- ✓ Tobi Farley
- ✓ Tamara Gaskell
- ✓ Matthew Pavloff

Greene County

- ✓ Catherine Benson
- ✓ Caroline Ford
- ☐ Jen Grounds

Dutchess County

- ☐ Carol Bancroft
- ✓ Mary DeBellis
- ✓ Carol Fortier
- ✓ Donna Perolli
- ☐ Daniela Pulice
- ✓ Courtney Tsahalís

Putnam County

- ✓ Michele Capozzella
- ✓ Laura Crisci
- ✓ Stephanie Harrison (Chair)

Ulster County

- ☐ Julie Kelsall-Dempsey
- ✓ Gillian Murphy
- ✓ Katie Scott-Childress

Staff Attending: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (MHLS), Nina Acosta (MHLS), Laurie Shedrick (MHLS)

Others Attending:

Discussion Items:

1. Members discussed their reactions to the draft of the whitepaper. Members felt overall the draft was comprehensive and succinct.
2. Members agreed to include language about OverDrive's impact on library relevance and the accessibility of collections to paragraph 3 of the Executive Summary
3. Central Library Program Aid can help purchase high-hold titles and the committee felt that the current wording in the Key Findings section was sufficient.
4. The Summary of Recommendations was discussed. Members decided to remove a reference to holds ratios that appeared in recommendation 3 in this section of the original draft.
5. Members discussed the section on identified issues related to the underfunding of OverDrive. Members agreed to remove the detail of what the committee analyzed and to fold that information into the recommendation section.
6. Members discussed the Recommendations Section:
 - a. Mandating training was discussed. It was decided that mandating training might be counterproductive and that it was neither feasible nor necessary at this time.
 - b. The hold ratio threshold of 7 or higher was discussed and affirmed as a good metric. Providing a definition of "holds ratio" would be useful.
 - c. Moving the language about using CPC for enhancement purposes to later in the document.
 - d. Remove detailed information about OverDrive functionality.
 - e. This language should be added to detail explaining why Mid-Hudson Library System Guidelines for OverDrive Collection Developed with Central Library Development Aid (CLDA) and Central Book Aid (CBA) Funds document needs to be updated: "to enhance the purchasing power of

member libraries in meeting proven demand that isn't triggering purchase by individual libraries."

7. Members discussed the best practice section:

- a. OverDrive Marketplace
 - i. Remove the reference to the ratio in A2d
 - ii. Combine automated carts information with the expiring metered access in A3.
- b. Collection Development
 - i. Members agreed that patron-initiated recommended titles are an enhancement and should not take priority over multiple copies of systemwide high-hold items.
 - ii. Providing examples of strategies that utilize pricing options such as 12-month metered access vs. 24-month metered access would be useful.
 - iii. MHLS could provide an annual report on the highest circulating genres, a.k.a. "Top Tier" genres. Members felt OverDrive's filter to show "top titles not in your collection" information was more useful.
 - iv. Other ways to predict popular titles were discussed, these included book-to-screen titles, People Magazine's "Books of the Week" recommendations, and Book Riot.
- c. The timing and rollout of this information were discussed:
 - i. The committee chair will talk about the committee's process at the upcoming DA meeting.
 - ii. DA Meeting Packet will include minutes of the three committee meetings. After the DA meeting the draft report will be shared to counties and a customized spending report will be sent to each member library director.
 - iii. MHLS will follow up with an email to counties.