

MTLib2Go membership meeting notes – 13 April 2018

Roll call / sign in – (see sign in sheet)

C Orban's list of comment from Libraries

- comment: concern whether MLS can continue to pay hosting
- what is the ration of platform cost to materials
- device compatibility? one device only
- not all libraries getting benefit

Opportunities portion of C Orban's

- Can patrons/users request individual items? Yes, either within Overdrive/Libby or by email to their librarian.
- Great to reduce wait time, but is it practical to keep purchasing more materials?

Susie McIntyre: there were 30,000 items in request cart (last time she looked). There is also a process where you can say here's \$50. Please purchase "___" to selection committee

"Advantage Collection": bylaws stipulate we can't do that for "side purchasing"

Gale Bacon: what do items cost?; some are very cheap, new, bestsellers can be 80-120.

Gavin Woltjer: his patrons prefer bestsellers and high demand / holds items.

Dawn Kingstad: patrons' frustration drives them away from product to a purchase.

Kim Crowley: we should just accept it, what is the problem w that? Let them get it on Amazon if they can afford. Buying high demand means that we are repurchasing expired items that still have holds.

- Metered access titles purchasing to cover items still have holds

Comments from membership:

Jodie Smiley: patrons love MtLib2Go, she loves it she can offer more than would fit in her library. Budget concerns every year are same, when she looks at her numbers she doesn't think the increase is unjustified.

Kit Stephenson: is unsure why we should NOT purchase "Advantage" so that big libraries can buy more independently for their patrons, it will drive down demand on the rest.

Susie McIntyre: the idea is to pool our resources rather than diverting funds for use by individual libraries, for their patron's exclusive use.

Gavin Woltjer: costs will rise, but it is not sustainable. Equitable is better idea than fair & we need a longer discussion

Susie McIntyre: the vote for this year is whether to freeze costs, we need a longer discussion about new solutions and we are forming a committee

Kim Crowley: She was in favor of the cost share when it started, but then her costs doubled (Billings, Missoula and Kalispell). She was surprised that use increased so much. She cannot afford to put in more \$\$, plus she did not get the State funding (that all MT libraries lost), she feels unhappy that she has contributed in the past but has not for a while.

Nancy Royan: which of the cost spreadsheets is correct?

Susie McIntyre: she had sent multiple versions: one had used old patron counts, so she recalculated & sent out a corrected version. Base cost is calculated using your patron/cardholder count, which determines your "tier". Base cost minimum was not less than each of us paid for 2017 year.

Susie McIntyre: Reviewed the cost share formula, also emphasized that the Executive committee has struggled with the formula from the beginning and that it must function for everyone.

Kim Crowley: It is misleading to say that budget for content will decrease.

Kim Crowley motion to hold costs at last year's level, Anita Scheetz seconded. Call for vote, it was suggested that a paper vote would be advisable for privacy reasons.

Susie McIntyre presented suggestions of the executive committee to membership (selection committee had presented suggestions to executive committee).

- Recommendation from selection is to increase holds automatic purchasing to 40% from current 30%.
- Recommendation to halt purchasing of MARC records for loading into catalog, data shows that this is not driving traffic, most of the time it is through the app. Apply those funds to materials
- Recommendation to change percentages to purchasing budget

Sean Anderson: his sense is that audio is climbing faster than ebooks; he would like to consider the trend and change the recommendation to reflect that.

Jodie Smiley: disagrees that holds reflect demand.

Dawn Kingstad motioned to accept budget with the recommendations, Gavin Woltjer seconded. Called for vote and motion approved.

Call for vote to exec committee, Cara Orban will take online votes off-screen for their privacy.

Cara Orban: cost share vote result: 25 to freeze/hold at last year's levels.

Corban runs three cost share formulas currently, including OCLC, MTLib2Go. She would like to standardize the cost-share formulas if possible. We need a committee to make it standard, sustainable, & predictable. Requesting member volunteers, deadline is end of April to serve

Kim Crowley: Is this to look at ALL formula? Total size? She has concern about the size of committee and representation.

Cara Orban: yes, we would like a group of 11-12 participants.

Susie McIntyre: asked membership to recognize the hard work of selectors throughout the year, special thanks to Katie Biehl for being their coordinator.

Kim Crowley motioned to approve amending bylaws to reflect changes, Heather Johnstone seconded; amendments approved by vote.

Susie McIntyre: Full RFP is scheduled for 2020; however, Baker & Taylor has offered a free platform for our consideration this year. Although we have no time to discuss this offering at this meeting, we would like an Ad Hoc committee to review and report. Please volunteer/nominate by end of April to serve on this committee.

Adjourned.

- Notes submitted by Stef Johnson

MontanaLibrary2Go discussion

How would you define success for MontanaLibrary2Go?

Comments from libraries:

- Success for patrons (more access, more circ) is great, but it creates a sustainability challenge for libraries in planning their budgets
- Success would be that patrons don't have to wait so long for holds
- Keep costs fair for all libraries
- Keep costs sustainable for big libraries so that small libraries can also participate (comment from a small library)

Challenges

Comments from libraries:

- Balancing materials budget with electronic (MontanaLibrary2Go, etc) budget
- There seems to be an endless need for MontanaLibrary2Go materials – the more we buy, the more patrons will check out – it seems like we could never keep up with demand
- Long holds wait times are a concern
- Concerns about Montana State Library's budget sustainability – ability to cover hosting
- Concerns about rising costs each year due to loss of state aid and local budget cuts
- Costs have increased dramatically
- Can't afford to put all our materials budget in MontanaLibrary2Go. The money we are putting into MontanaLibrary2Go is right on target when we compare money to circulation.
- Everybody needs to contribute to cost increases
- Small or big – cost increases hurt all of us
- The significant amount of time that our volunteer selection committee puts into the collection is a sustainability issue

Opportunities:

1. Collection question: if we have to prioritize reduced wait times for high demand titles *or* having a more diverse collection – what is the preference? Should we ask our patrons?

Comments from libraries:

- Lean towards purchasing high demand items. We don't want things to sit on the shelf so to speak.
2. We need to vote on a cost share formula and a budget today. What would you like to see next year? What about beyond next year?

Comments from libraries:

- Hold costs for this coming year
- Cannot commit to what happens beyond this coming year

- Discussion notes recorded by Cara Orban