WPLC Steering Committee

July 2015 Updates and Workgroup Reports

Collection Policy and Development Workgroup

The workgroup met and discussed edits to the collection policy to reflect the approved recommendations about the buying pool. The new policy will be ready for Steering Committee review at the next meeting.

Newspaper project

The final list of newspapers should be completed by the time of this meeting. Wisconsin Historical Society, Wisconsin Newspaper Association, Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning and WiLS met to finalize tasks and timeline. It is expected that the pilot titles will be available by the end of the year. The last report on this project noted that project sites will be announced.   We are still waiting for WHS on this, but it is possible this info will be available by the time of the meeting.

Statistics Workgroup

Evan Bend from OWLS and Melody Clark volunteered to join the workgroup. S. Morrill proposed an idea to the group to move the project forward: WiLS will be having two sessions on Wednesday, November 4th at the WLA Conference related to data visualization: "Basics of Data Visualization" and "Data Visualization using Excel".   She proposed having a "WPLC/OverDrive data hackathon" on Wednesday afternoon. The purpose of the hackathon would be to create visualizations of OverDrive data that could be easily customized and reused by different libraries, along with the instructions on how to use the visualization. In this way, the work of creating the visualizations and instructions is crowdsourced and the event could generate some publicity for the project, while giving those attending the earlier sessions a chance to apply what they've learned.

ALA

Ebooks & Digital Audiobooks

OverDrive: They will be implementing an upgraded website. They have not announced a go live date for this yet nor have they shown what improvements are being made. They have said it will be faster and that searching will be improved. The reason they did not do a lot of revealing at ALA is because they will be doing so at Digipalooza. Sara Gold will be attending Digipalooza and we will be communicating with them after their conference to learn more. We'll share what we learn before and at the September committee meeting.

Other: There are a few other vendors that were visited related to ebooks and digital audiobooks. One of interest is Total Boox. They have a very interesting pricing model and it seems it might be having some traction with publishers. If you click on their above link, it takes you to the page that explains their model. The basics of it are all their titles are simultaneously available to patrons. There is no selection and new titles are always being added.   A spending budget is provided to them on account. Patrons can download as many titles as they want, but there is no charge for a title being downloaded. The charge is

applied based on how much progress a patron makes reading a title. If a patron checked 10 ebooks, but only read 10% of each, the charge would be for just one ebook.

Also, it was learned that more and more libraries are providing multiple platform options for similar content. It was shared at one presentation that on average, people with smart phones use 18 different apps per day. This was highlighting that many patrons are becoming more sophisticated users of technology and multiple platforms or formats for a percentage of patrons is no longer an obstacle. A few libraries shared that they have seen increased overall digital content usage, beyond what they had been experiencing, and feel they are providing better and more content options for patrons since they have expanded the platform options. In doing this, it sounds like the libraries are not branding the digital content offerings under the brand of the vendor, but rather more generic collection terms like at [Cuyahoga County](), which I believe will be adding another multi-format platform for ebooks, audiobooks and video that mostly focuses on local and self-published content.

Digital Magazines

The big takeaway is that all the vendors are still generally where they were when we explored them as options with the digital magazine workgroup. They are all adding titles and some functionality, but the pros and cons for the different vendors seems to be in the same place. They are all adding publishers, but Flipster still has the exclusive deal with Time Warner and it doesn't sound like there is any impending deal on the horizon for any of the others to get Time Warner titles. Indications are everyone's pricing will still stay in the same ballpark. And, OverDrive is still the only one with ILS integration, but also doesn't look like they will have a read in browser option in the near future.