

WPLC Annual Meeting 2017

Questions for discussion

Representation

1. Who do the individuals on the Steering Committee represent?
 - a. Their own library
 - b. All libraries in their system
 - c. The system
 - d. The state (having a more holistic view)
 - e. All of the above
2. Who do the individuals on the Steering Committee have the authority to speak for?
3. How do we ensure that the mission and goals of WPLC are infused into decision-making for both the Steering Committee and the Board?

Decision-making

The Steering Committee was formed to manage the day-to-day operations of the Digital Library. It should clearly have some independence and decision-making authority. The intent was that the Board, similar to a library board or system board, would have budget and policy authority.

Situation 1: OverDrive is offering a new feature that allows individual libraries and/or systems to modify the Digital Library's homepage once patrons log in, which means that the WPLC brand may not be presented the same way for all patrons. The consortium needs to decide if this feature will be implemented.

Situation 2: A new feature in OverDrive allows Advantage accounts to transfer titles to the shared collection based on certain criteria. The criteria can be set by individual Advantage accounts, but the question has been raised if the criteria should be standardized because a portion of the buying pool dollars are being allocated to Advantage accounts. Two decisions need to be made: if the criteria should be standardized and, if so, what the criteria should be.

Situation 3: A new platform is available that will supplement the current OverDrive platform and offer a different type of content. This new platform can be integrated into the current Digital Library. The consortium needs to decide if this will be purchased, if it will be integrated and how much will be allocated for content.

If the Board were to overrule a recommendation from the Steering Committee when they had the authority to do so, what might be the best process for doing so in order to keep good relations between the two bodies?

Annual Collection Workgroup process

There is some challenge in the inter-relationships between the Steering Committee, Board, and Digital Collections Workgroup. The way it works now, the Digital Collections Workgroup (which includes members from the Board, Steering, and Selection) makes a recommendation to the Steering Committee, who can approve or alter that recommendation and make a recommendation to the Board.

One alternative could be that the Digital Collections Workgroup would make the budget recommendation directly to the Board and make recommendations about the digital library (content to include, etc.) to the Steering Committee. The Board would then make the decision about the allocation for the buying pool, and give the Steering Committee the authority to make decisions on how to use the allocation.

In your group, discuss this alternative and come up with 1-2 alternatives to the current process.

Communication

What might be some best practices to improve communication between the libraries, systems, Steering Committee, and Board?

1. How do Steering Committee and Board representatives learn what their libraries want when decisions are going to be made?
2. How can we improve communication between the Steering Committee and Board?
3. What might be some best practices for the Steering Committee and Board information to be communicated to the member libraries?