

MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM
Central Library / Collection Development Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: October 2, 2025

Location: MHLS Auditorium

Committee members attending:

- Emily Chameides (Columbia)
- Rain Whittaker (Columbia)
- Daniela Pulice (Dutchess)
- Courtney Tsahalis (Dutchess)
- Catherine Benson (Greene)

- Corinne Tatavitto (Greene)
- Dede Farabaugh (Putnam)
- Amina Chaudhri (Putnam)
- Ivy Gocker (Ulster)
- Jesse Chance (Ulster)

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

Others Attending: Tom Lawrence (PPLD)

Minutes from June 2025 meeting reviewed and approved by Jesse, seconded by Emily. Passed unanimously.

Discussion Items:

1. Central Library Budget Update

- a. Reviewed 2025 Central Library budget update. Tom noted that contingency and content credit is majority of what is left to spend - \$5K from 2024 purchased content credit, \$15K in contingency to use towards this year, and \$76k for content credit for 2026. Tom will update the document to make it more clear what content credit is available and what is spent.
- b. Discussed that OverDrive buying isn't meeting demand. Ratios are very high. How is popularity defined for purchasing with Central Library credit? Tom looks at bestsellers list and buys all that they can. Nonfiction doesn't circ as much. Focuses on items with ratios over 10. Looks at cost-benefit analysis to see what options make sense (OverDrive Max vs OCU vs. MA). Committee okay with OverDrive Max being used as an option. Will focus on bestsellers (making sure that there's at least one copy of each in eBook and e-audiobook formats) and then looking at high demand holds. The committee emphasized that spending should be spread out evenly across time so as not to run out of funds prior to the end of the year.
- c. Motion made to take \$15,458 in contingency to spend on OverDrive by Courtney, seconded by Amina. Passed unanimously.
- d. Agreed to timeline of considering renewals of databases in June. Daniela suggested libraries run reports to see use of Transparent Language. Committee members to review databases prior to our discussions in 2026. Tom asked if the system could pull aggregated stats for Transparent Language. Laurie said they could. Discussion on how Transparent Languages defines user sessions vs. circs, where circs relate to lesson accessed and not logins.
- e. E-resource at-a-glance and renewals dates looked at. Delivery figures will be available at our January meeting. 2% increase Discover/Vega.

2. Central Library Plan of Service Development for 2027-2031 Action Requested: Committee members to leave notes in shared document that will help create a first draft of a new Central Library Plan of Service that will span the years 2027-2031.

3. Staff Updates

- a. Report on outreach to OverDrive re: two-factor authentication (LS)
 - i. Background: There is awareness that patrons across the country are sharing their barcode and PIN to allow non-residents to borrow items from local libraries' OverDrive collections. This can increase costs for local libraries.

- ii. Issue: OverDrive does not offer opportunities to deal with this situation currently. MHLS staff contact OverDrive to advocate for multifactor authentication.
 - iii. What MHLS learned:
 1. OverDrive's privacy policy does not allow OverDrive to store patron data to facilitate multifactor authentication.
 2. OverDrive has monitoring/blocking for suspicious activity a. If users borrow enough titles to exceed 15 times their checkout limit or 150 checkouts (whichever is less) within a seven-day period, additional checkouts will be temporarily blocked.
 3. OverDrive is unable to block users by comparing their IP address to another session (like Netflix, Hulu) as they do not continuously track the IP address of a user.
 4. OverDrive does not support a third credential value to have a third verification field, in addition to the barcode and PIN. They noted that third field could just as easily be transmitted to others as the barcode and PIN.
 - iv. MHLS recommendations:
 1. A pilot to test a dual ptype: A separate ptype to be used for online registration to isolate these users from other cardholders. These users can be profiled with restrictions. We could then monitor for abuse/use. (Daniela suggested this might be more work for MHLS than necessary and advises everyone to set up online card registration to be expired until verified).
 2. Patron education to encourage them to be more intentional users, for example, other systems have done a patron campaign to help them understand the licensing challenges/increase costs for libraries
 3. Advocating with OverDrive to add a periodical need for patrons to reauthenticate, i.e., once every (##) of days
 - v. Policy Changes Overdrive recommends:
 1. Limit holds to the number of possible checkouts. Patrons, use holds as a reading list creating more demand than is possibly supported in use.
 2. Encourage use of tagging - patrons can tag titles for future use
 3. New policy for suspending holds should reduce time to move titles to a user who is ready to check out.
 - vi. Nassau Library System shared a report – re: patron education/evaluation. 60% ok with wait time. Daniela asked if there was a way to have evaluation in Libby app; Nina noted yes. Discussion re: how to inform patrons of costs to libraries without dissuading use, and idea of mindful library user campaign. Not clear if barcode and PIN sharing is an issue in MHLS. Tom noted patron education could be useful for them to understand that holds influence purchasing. Will be interesting to see how change in suspending holds impacts hold lists.
 - vii. Laurie suggests survey and patron education. Review how suspending holds affects use and wait times. Maybe not change policy right now, while patrons are getting used to suspending holds changes. Sample report that libraries can run to review for potential abuse.
- b. **eResource renewal dates:** June 30.
 - c. **Report on New York State eBook Working Group & the New York State eContent Consensus Brief – August 2025 Draft Document** eBook licensing is a threat to library sustainability. Rebekkah shared draft eContent Consensus Brief and asks committee to review and share feedback.

4. Continued Discussion: Hoopla Content Curation & Broader Approach to A.I. in Collection Development

a. Report from Hoopla Content Curation webinar held on Monday, September 8

- i. Very small percentage of collection is suppressed due to AI content.
- ii. Presenter from hoopla confirmed that they are trying to work with vendors to label materials as AI.
- iii. Individual customers need to request if they wish AI materials to be suppressed.
- iv. In the current collection, 9,478 audiobook titles are marked as A.I. or 2.8% of the audiobook collection. Only 20 eBooks are marked as A.I., however, identifying AI content is dependent on the publisher/vendor disclosing that info and tagging their content accurately.
- v. If AI content is suspected in the hoopla catalog, members may report these to hoopla Customer Support Specialist Taylor Gilcher, TGilcher@midwesttapes.com to have the appropriate team review it.

b. Discussion on what our role is as a committee re: AI.

- i. Daniela noted that our role is making recommendations and sharing information, not policing.
- ii. Some discussion of hoopla “curation” vs other collections. MHLS asked vendors where we don’t have control over what is purchased/added to catalog about their use of AI – responses shared. Tom noted we removed known AI hoopla content from the catalog and that we should treat other vendors similarly. Daniela noted issue with hoopla was curation. Rebekkah noted Books by Bots article linked in agenda.
- iii. Reminder to member libraries that if they wish to suppress AI content in their hoopla collections, they will need to reach out to their hoopla rep to request this. Daniela will contact hoopla to clarify if libraries need to check in regularly about suppressing AI content.
- iv. Daniella will ask OverDrive if there is AI in the periodicals collection and do you tag AI content in your books.
- v. Courtney suggested that this should be a larger conversation – example of AI book that takes off on BookTok that your patrons want – would you buy it?

5. Other

- a. Feedback on training – responses are that folks are happy and satisfied. Other topics: AI, weeding (happening soon).
- b. Tom noted OverDrive to be weeded emails too many – Nina noted that under tools you can change frequency of emails.

Motion to adjourn made by Courtney, seconded by Dede at 11:54 am. Passed unanimously.

Next meeting to be scheduled in January 2026.