

# WPLC Digital Library Steering Committee

## 2016 DRAFT Collection and Buying Pool Recommendations

The WPLC Digital Library Steering Committee accepted, at their April 23, 2015 meeting, the recommendations of the Digital Collection Workgroup as their 2016 DRAFT Collection and Buying Pool Recommendations. The Digital Collection Workgroup met on March 19, 2015 to consider a number of issues related to the current WPLC digital collection. The workgroup made a series of recommendations, based on use statistics from OverDrive and survey results from patrons and library staff.

The draft recommendations are:

**1. Encourage Advantage collections to purchase copies of popular materials and purchase unique materials at the state level.**

The group discussed the role of Advantage collections, and recommended that WPLC encourage systems with Advantage collections to focus funds on purchasing copies of popular materials and to make recommendations for the statewide collection for unique materials, rather than purchasing them for their own system-level collections. Because Advantage collections have a limited audience, purchasing unique materials at that level naturally limits the audience and will result in less use than if an item were added to the statewide collection. Because there are often high numbers of holds from all systems on popular items, adding copies of these items will provide the most use of the invested dollars as the copies are likely to have high circulation, even with a more limited audience.

**2. Increase the holds ratio for best sellers; ask the Selection Committee to consider a two-tiered system of holds ratios.**

The survey results suggest that many patrons could tolerate a higher holds ratio for popular materials. The Selection Committee currently strives to collect 1 copy for every 5 holds. Changing this ratio to 7-to-1 for the entire shared collection or introducing a two-tiered system with a higher ratio (such as 7-to-1) for most titles and a 5-to-1 ratio for the most popular titles would decrease the amount spent on added copies and allow WPLC to invest in some other areas and more unique content. Encouraging systems to add copies through their Advantage collections would help to decrease wait time for popular items, even if the holds ratio was increased (see recommendation 1 above).

**3. Purchase patron requests only when a certain number of requests are received for a title.**

The RTL (Request to Library) feature in OverDrive is popular, and WPLC consistently receives significantly more requests for items than the budget allocated for patron requests. While the library survey results point to a desire to fulfill patron requests, it also suggested that requests should be vetted to make sure the requested title is high quality and adds value to the collection. In order to meet both of these needs, the workgroup recommends that patron requests be purchased only when a certain number of requests are received for a title. The

number of requests to trigger a purchase will be determined by the selection committee. The expectation is that this recommendation would reduce the amount spent on patron requests.

**4. Add a pilot Spanish language collection, focused on translated bestsellers and children's materials.**

The workgroup felt that adding a small Spanish language collection would be appropriate, and suggested an allocation of \$5,000 to purchase a pilot collection in 2016. The usage statistics would be monitored and the collection evaluated prior to the 2017 allocation of the buying pool. The group felt that the most use of Spanish language materials in print collections are of translated bestsellers and children's materials, and are therefore recommending the same formulation for the pilot digital collection.

**5. Stop purchasing music and remove the existing music collection.**

Very little of the digital collection budget has been invested in music, and there was little evidence in the library and patron surveys to suggest value in investing the significant funds that would be needed to make a viable music collection. The workgroup is recommending that WPLC stop purchasing music and remove the existing music collection from the OverDrive interface, as the collection is small and not very popular.

**6. Stop purchasing video, remove video that is only downloadable, keep the streaming video, and re-evaluate this format in a year.**

While the streaming video format in OverDrive has had some use, there are some factors that make this collection less desirable for patrons:

- Titles are not available for unlimited simultaneous use, and patrons do not like the model of having to wait for streaming video.
- New, popular titles are not available.

The workgroup recommends that WPLC stop purchasing OverDrive video at this time and evaluate video as a format in one year as the 2017 buying pool allocation is prepared.

The workgroup also recommends that current videos that are not streaming (only downloadable) be removed from the collection. These videos are old and not being used.

**7. Allocate more funds toward audiobooks.**

The survey results and usage statistics point to a need to increase the amount of funds spent each year for audiobooks. In the past, funds for audiobooks were shifted to ebooks in order to meet the significant demand for that format. The workgroup is suggesting that funds now be shifted back to audiobooks to help revitalize this lagging format. Recommendation #1 will also assist with this goal, as Advantage accounts would be encourage to purchase additional copies in both audiobook and ebook formats, as budgets allow.

**8. Budget \$50,000 for OverDrive magazines of the buying pool for OverDrive magazines.**

The Digital Magazines Workgroup recommended that WPLC budget \$75,000 of the 2016 WPLC buying pool to subscribe to approximately 100 magazine titles from Over Drive Periodicals.

This workgroup felt that the librarian and patron surveys suggested enough interest in magazines to support the recommendation of adding magazines to the collection. In order to keep the addition within the existing buying pool budget, the workgroup modified the recommendation to suggest that WPLC budget \$50,000 (rather than \$75,000) from the buying pool and that WPLC use a portion of the WPLC reserve budget to purchase any additional copies or titles beyond the \$50,000 if deemed necessary during 2016. This subscription would be considered a pilot of the format, and use would be closely monitored in order to purchase additional copies as needed and also to determine interest and the potential need for a larger investment. If the pilot shows interest and use of this format, the workgroup would expect that additional funds may needed to move from a pilot into a permanent part of the WPLC digital collection.

**9. Keep the WPLC digital buying pool amount at \$1,000,000 for 2016.**

While the workgroup is proposing some changes to the collection, the Select Committee representatives on the workgroup felt that these changes could be accommodated within the \$1,000,000 buying pool this year. As mentioned in the magazines recommendation (see Recommendation 8), the changes made this year, particularly the addition of the magazines, should be monitored and evaluated to determine if more resources are needed as next year's buying pool allocation is considered.