

My recent discussions with Dane County Library directors elicited the following concerns with the DCL Standards:

- Diverting collection development funds toward digital materials (DFD)
- Meeting the Annual Material Expenditures per Capita requirement
- Meeting the Annual Item Acquisitions as a Percent of Holdings requirement
- Total Print & Electronic Subscriptions

### **Concerns/Problems**

#### *- Digital Fund Diversion (DFD)*

In the past five years, libraries have been required to divert more of their collection development funding to that of digital materials (think OverDrive and Flipster). All the listed concerns relate directly to this fact. Libraries understand that access to digital materials is desired and necessary; however, the funds used for consortium buying of digital materials take away from funds to purchase traditional collection. Thus, there is less funding available to meet the Annual per Capital requirement, and less funding available to meet the Annual Item Acquisitions as Percentage of Holdings requirement.

In the past, it was clearer to see which formats were declining in use and, thus, reduce their funding or completely remove them from the collection. Now, however, trends are much murkier and patrons desire all formats, online and traditional, thereby making it impossible for libraries to divest themselves of any one collection.

#### *- Meeting the Annual Material Expenditures per Capita requirement*

The DFD has caused concern about meeting the Per Capital Material Expenditures requirement. Library funding has generally not increased over the past eight years and in some cases has been reduced due to tight budget environments. Thus, collection budgets have not grown to keep pace with rising costs. In addition to a lack of budget growth, libraries have had to spread their collection funds to cover digital materials. This makes it difficult to meet the standard that requires Per Capita expenditure for materials, and in no way credits libraries for the digital materials they are funding and providing to their patrons.

#### *- Meeting the Annual Item Acquisitions as a Percent of Holdings requirement*

The DFD also has an impact on the purchase of enough items as a percent of holdings. Libraries do not have as much purchasing power to guarantee that they meet the percentage of growth each year.

#### *- Total Print & Electronic Subscriptions*

This has been a concern for years, and not because libraries wish to carry fewer subscriptions. The subscription industry is not stable and publications regularly go out of print or become online-only. In addition, libraries bought into Flipster in 2015 as a trial, one that has shown to be successful. However, this created further DFD, and libraries do not know if they can claim the 50 titles digitally accessed through Flipster as subscription titles. Many libraries wish to keep print copies of magazines; however, they find it hard to maintain any kind of solid number with the fluctuation of the market and the effects of DFD. In addition, the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium, the body that selects OverDrive titles, is using some of their buying pool to provide magazine titles in OverDrive, indicating that electronic magazine access is here to stay.

### **Possible Solutions**

- Allow libraries to account for a percentage of WPLC titles in their collection numbers.
- Make participation in the WPLC consortium a Standard.
- Choose either Expenditures Per Capita OR the Acquisitions as Percent of Holdings.
- Give libraries credit toward the magazine/periodical standard for both Flipster and OverDrive titles.