

- DRAFT -

**Electronic Resource Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 19, 2020**

Present: Nathan Boyer (SJVLS, Chair), Clarisa Bernabe (Fresno), Heather Eddy (Kern), Mary Jo Lawrence (Madera); Rebecca Adams (Mariposa), Smruti Deshpande (Merced), Erika Hawkyard (Tulare County), Maria Marquez (Tulare Public)

Absent: Nathan Vosburg (Coalinga-Huron), Tamara Evans (Kings)

Others Present: Brian Martin (Kings)

- I. The meeting was called to order at 10:04am by Nathan Boyer.
- II. Brian Martin was introduced to committee members.
- III. Agenda was approved as written.
- IV. Comments from the Public: None
- V. Meeting minutes from October 16, 2019 were approved as written.
- VI. Projects for Discussion & Action

A. Action: Review RFQ / Recommend Databases for FY2020-21

Boyer reviewed the RFQ evaluation process. SJVLS averaged the evaluation ratings provided by member libraries and weighted the averages according to a formula (35% content, 15% user experience, 10% administration and reporting, and 40% cost). According to the weighted rankings, Gale's proposal was identified as the top response across all categories (general content, auto repair, and readers' advisory). There was some discussion among members about the transition from EBSCO to Gale products, particularly regarding the loss of Novelist content in catalog search results. Hawkyard noted that SJVLS is currently paying for a similar readers' advisory service in Syndetics Unbound that is also integrated into search results. Novelist includes some features that Syndetics Unbound does not: GoodReads (Hawkyard) and Media Mentions (Eddy). Hawkyard stated that Novelist is stronger in Children's and YA content but Syndetics has strong support for adult fiction and non-fiction. Members accepted that, while not an exact duplicate of Novelist, Syndetics Unbound offered enough features to offset the loss of Novelist. Kern moved and Tulare Public seconded a motion to award the system-wide database subscription to

Gale beginning in FY 2020/21 and to recommend that subscription to the Administrative Council. The motion passed unanimously.

Boyer noted significant system member interest in Proquest's CultureGrams both at the RFQ vendor presentations and during the evaluation and rating process. Because of cost savings associated with Gale's RFQ proposal, SJVLS asked Proquest for a quote to subscribe to CultureGrams as a standalone resource. Proquest offered system-wide access to CultureGrams for \$18,300 (the same price presented in their RFQ proposal) with annual increases of no more than 3% for the next three annual renewal cycles. The quoted price could be covered by cost savings with the Gale subscription. Committee members discussed offering CultureGrams as a system-wide resource. Eddy mentioned comparable information that is freely available on the web. The CIA's World Factbook, which contains detailed country profiles, travel information, maps, and photos, was specifically referenced as an alternative that could be used to support student research/reports. Adams noted that she wasn't sure how much CultureGrams would be used by Mariposa patrons. Something like World Factbook might suffice as an alternative. Hawkyard expressed concern about referring students to World Factbook over CultureGrams due to differences in the intended audiences for the respective resources. Committee members questioned a multiyear subscription to CultureGrams. A single year subscription might be preferable. Decision and recommendation on CultureGrams was tabled, pending examination of other potential resources. [NB: The pricing offer is valid through August 30, 2020.]

Hawkyard asked what other options could be considered for funds saved by the Gale subscription. Marquez mentioned previous discussions about streaming resources. Boyer stated that committee could consider individual resources contained in one of the RFQ proposals or could recommend directing money toward another currently offered SJVLS resource, such as ebooks/audiobooks for the Cloud Library subscription. Other resources that aren't currently offered or proposed would likely require another RFQ and there isn't enough time for a full RFQ process before the final SJVLS budget is approved. An exception could be made in the case of a very specific resource (e.g. test prep) if quotes were requested directly from the vendors providing those resources. Hawkyard asked about Learning Express. Marquez asked if that was included in the EBSCO's

response to the RFQ. [NB: It was not.] Bernabe mentioned Gale's Udemy. Eddy mentioned Lynda.com. Tulare County moved and Mariposa seconded a motion to gather quotes from test prep vendors. The motion passed unanimously. Potential vendors were identified: Learning Express, Lynda.com, Universal Class, Udemy.

Boyer said committee should make a formal recommendation on continuing the system's existing subscription to Pronunciator. Tulare Public moved and Tulare County seconded a motion to recommend continuation of the Pronunciator subscription for FY 2020/21. The motion passed unanimously.

Eddy informed the committee that Kern will be beta testing a new version of Hoopla that uses multiple sales/purchase models. That version of Hoopla is not yet available for consortia but might be by FY 2021/22. Boyer stated that the committee should examine ebook/audiobook subscription options for FY 2021/22.

- VII. Because committee still needs to make a recommendation for spending the cost savings from Gale subscription a Skype meeting will likely be scheduled for March. Exact date TBD.
- VIII. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:23am.