



## Electronic Resources Committee Minutes

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY  
LIBRARY SYSTEM  
2420 Mariposa Street  
Fresno, CA 93721  
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August 17, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Visalia Branch Library

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### MINUTES

#### A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

#### B. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Members Present: Alyssa Furin (Fresno), Fahra Daredia (Kern), Ashley Nuhfer (Kings), Alma Madrigal-Ward (Madera), Yer Vang (Tulare County), Maria Marquez (Tulare Public)  
Fahra Daredia introduced herself as the new representative for Kern County.

Members Absent: Nathan Vosburg (Coalinga-Huron), Matt Johnson (Mariposa), Smruti Deshpande (Merced)

#### C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as written.

#### D. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

#### E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2023 (Attachment 1)

Motion: Marquez (Tulare Public)

Second: Vang (Tulare County)

The minutes were approved by majority vote. Daredia (Kern) abstained.

#### F. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

##### 1. DISCUSSION: Distributing Resources Survey

Boyer discussed the status of the patron survey on resources. Original intention was to make the survey accessible via ValleyCat. This would require an announcement in English and Spanish. The survey is only available in English. Boyer did not want to provide a Spanish language announcement to a survey that could not be completed by Spanish speakers. Members discussed alternative methods for distributing the survey. Social media, links and/or QR codes, and paper copies were discussed.

Boyer and Madrigal-Ward (Madera) had previously discussed the resource needs of Spanish speakers and the barriers that prevent Spanish speakers from utilizing library resources. Boyer would like the committee to understand the unique resource needs of non-English speakers. Furin (Fresno) pointed out that understanding those needs could require assistance from staff at rural branches, who often are not aware of ERC goals and objectives. Most libraries have few staff members involved in outreach to

Spanish speaking patrons. Distributing a survey or conducting personalized interviews about specific resource needs could be challenging.

Members agreed that translating the existing survey into Spanish was the best short-term solution. Madrigal-Ward recommended including a question about computer literacy and familiarity as that is a common barrier to access for Spanish speakers. Marquez (Tulare Public) recommended an open-ended question asking for suggestions of Spanish language resources the library could provide. Madrigal-Ward suggested simplifying the answer options as some (somewhat agree/disagree) are difficult concepts to translate and convey. Boyer will make the recommended changes to the survey.

Members discussed translation procedures at their libraries. Most translation is done by one person or a small group, often based on who is available. Fresno uses a translation team that meets semi-regularly. Vang (Tulare County) asked about having a translation group who could provide translations for resources and marketing across the entire system. Boyer will discuss that with system office. Madrigal-Ward and Marquez are willing to help with translating the existing resources survey. Furin will talk to Fresno's translation team to see if they can help. Members agreed that Fresno might be more willing and able to help if the survey had been at least partially or initially translated. Fresno's team could then look at context and clarity, rather than doing all the translation.

## 2. DISCUSSION: Review Fiscal Year 2022-23 Resource Usage

Boyer provided members with usage statistics for Gale research databases, Peterson's Test Prep, and Pronunciator. Session totals from the last three fiscal years (2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23) were provided for each member library and for the entire system. Highest and most consistent usage was in specialized resources: Chilton's, Peterson's Test Prep, and Pronunciator. Patron survey on resources will be helpful to determine if there is interest in other resources and whether more consistent marketing of resources could help increase usage.

Committee wants to know how Merced is using SirsiDynix Community Engagement Platform (CEP) and if CEP could be an effective tool for marketing resources. Vang stated that vendors should provide marketing assistance for the resources they provide. Members discussed resource graphics that are available on vendor administrative sites. Members asked Boyer to send monthly reminders of product and marketing graphics.

## 3. DISCUSSION: ERC Mission and Projects

Boyer shared minutes from the February 2014 committee meeting explaining the roles of the Electronic Resources and Automation Committees and encouraging communication between the two committees on projects of interest to both groups. Boyer encouraged members to communicate with Automation members and other staff at their libraries and to look for opportunities where ERC and the System could help with local ideas and projects.

## 4. DISCUSSION: Presentations to Admin Council

Boyer reminded members that Chris Wymer has asked about ERC presentations to Admin Council. Presentations could cover a variety of topics. Because of the

committee's focus on identifying resource priorities, a presentation on survey results and committee interpretations would make sense. Boyer will ask about delaying a presentation until after the survey is translated and made available to patrons. Preparing the presentation could be a collaborative project. Vang might be willing to present to Admin Council.

#### **G. STATUS UPDATE ON SYSTEM RESOURCES**

Boyer announced that Pronunciator has been renewed for another years and includes new features: daily lessons and quizzes, expanded audio lessons, improved Course Designer, and additional quiz types. Pronunciator is also working on a multilingual AI chat feature in dozens of languages and grammar notes and insights on any instructional phrase in Pronunciator. New marketing graphics are also available.

Nuhfer (Kings) will select Juvenile fiction and non-fiction titles for cloudLibrary. Marquez will be select any areas that open if membership changes create vacancies. Boyer will send biweekly budget and purchasing reminders to the selectors.

#### **H. CALENDAR ITEMS**

The next meeting will tentatively be held on October 26, 2023 on Microsoft Teams.

#### **I. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Boyer asked committee members to share any resource changes and setup work by early September to accommodate vacation schedules later in the month.

Furin reminded the committee that September 30 is the last day for patrons to sign up for 12-month subscription through CAreer Pathways program. Boyer will send a reminder to committee at the beginning of September.

#### **J. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.