Electronic Resources Committee
Minutes

| June 20, 2024 | 10:30 a.m. | Teleconference |

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:34 a.m.

B. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Members Present: Mike Drake (Fresno), Fahra Daredia (Kern), Matt Johnson (Mariposa), Smruti Deshpande (Merced), Heidi Clark (Tulare Public)

Members Absent: Nathan Vosburg (Coalinga-Huron), Alma Madrigal-Ward (Madera)

Others Present: Tony Arellano (Porterville), Ashley Nuhfer (as guest/public), Yer Vang (as guest/public)

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as written.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2024

Clark noted that the wrong person was listed as attending on behalf of Tulare Public. Minutes should be corrected to reflect that Clark, not Marquez, attended. Clark motioned to approve the corrected minutes.
Motion: Clark (Tulare Public)
Second: Deshpande (Merced)
The minutes were approved. Johnson (Mariposa) abstained.

F. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

1. ACTION: Recommend CAreer Pathways Resource(s) for Continuation

   The State Library confirmed that CAreer Pathways resources (Coursera, GetSetUp, Learning Express, LinkedIn Learning, Northstar, Skillshare, and VetNow) will not be funded beyond September 2024. System is interested in continuing to provide access to one or more of those resources, depending on costs. ERC needs to recommend a product or products so that Admin Council can consider whether to fund continued access systemwide.

   Members discussed usage of the different resources at individual libraries. Members reported that resources from Brainfuse, VetNow and HelpNow, received consistent usage. LinkedIn Learning and Learning Express were also frequently used at most libraries. During the discussion, members noted that access to HelpNow, part of the

State Library's COMPASS (K-12) resources and not CAreer Pathways, is set to end in August 2024. Drake reported that Fresno has arranged to continue offering HelpNow. Clark commented that Brainfuse products are familiar within the library and, as a result, are promoted by staff and used by patrons.

Boyer shared information about conversations with the vendors of products being discussed. EBSCO has provided a quote of $97,915 for systemwide access to Learning Express Library Complete. LinkedIn Learning is discussing discounted rates with Califa. Exact amounts are not currently available. Discounts and rates would be based on the total number of California libraries that subscribe through Califa. Boyer has scheduled a meeting with Brainfuse and will provide quotes for products when those are received.

Clark noted the difficulty of recommending resources for purchase without knowing exact costs. Boyer acknowledged that challenge. Having precise quotes is helpful for making decisions. In the current case, the committee can recommend products to Admin Council for consideration, depending on final costs/quotes.

Clark motioned to recommend that Admin Council consider the Brainfuse suite of products, LinkedIn Learning, and Learning Express as potential systemwide resources. Deshpande seconded the motion. Vote was taken by roll call and the motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: Clark (Tulare Public)
Second: Deshpande (Merced)
Yes: Drake (Fresno), Daredia (Kern), Johnson (Mariposa), Deshpande (Merced), Clark (Tulare Public)
No: None
Abstain: None

2. DISCUSSION: Systemwide Resources for FY25-26

Boyer discussed the committee's resource category goals for fiscal year 2025-26 in connection to conversations with vendors about ongoing or new subscriptions. The System intends to continue offering resources for general research, automotive repair, career prep, ebooks and audiobooks, book recommendations, digital news, and language learning. Digital magazines, streaming video, and streaming audio are identified as resources to add over a multiyear period, with digital magazines being a target for fiscal year 2025-26.

Committee members also discussed language learning resources. Boyer shared usage statistics from Pronunciator. The number of logins and quizzes during the last four years is noticeably lower than during the first four years when Pronunciator was offered. Some member libraries have seen slightly better usage trends. Kern, Mariposa, and Merced have all seen increased usage over the last three years. With the exception of Merced, usage numbers are about one-third of what they were during the first year Pronunciator was offered. The subscription cost has remained the same over the life of the contract, but reduced usage means that the cost per use has increased. Boyer doesn't have an explanation for declining Pronunciator usage. Daredia added that Kern actively promotes the resource on social media, which might explain why Kern's usage has increased since the pandemic.
Mango Languages was welcomed to present to the committee so that members could evaluate features and components that might attract more patron interest. Clark

observed that Pronunciator provides added benefits beyond language learning due to the ProCitizen resources for citizenship. Boyer reminded the committee that the Pronunciator usage stats include Procitizen logins and quizzes. Daredia, Nuhfer, and Deshpande requested jurisdiction-specific usage totals for their libraries.

G. STATUS UPDATE ON SYSTEM RESOURCES

Usage stats are current through the end of May. Full fiscal year stats will be available by mid-July.

cloudLibrary is working to develop featured shelves and carts for our collection. Our representative is happy to help with additional marketing and promotion services to increase usage. Ordering will resume in mid-July.

H. CALENDAR ITEMS

The next meeting will tentatively be held on August 15, 2024 at the Visalia Branch Library.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tulare Public is interviewing to fill librarian vacancies. They might have a new ERC representative by the next meeting.

J. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.