



Electronic Resources Committee Regular Meeting

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
LIBRARY SYSTEM
2420 Mariposa Street
Fresno, CA 93721
559-600-6282

June 12, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Visalia Branch Library

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Members Present: Ashley Nuhfer (Kings), Alma Madrigal-Ward (Madera), Smruti Deshpande (Merced), Alisha Rodriguez (Tulare County), Heidi Clark (Tulare Public)

Members Absent: Nathan Vosburg (Coalinga-Huron), Mike Drake (Fresno), Fahra Daredia (Kern), Matt Johnson (Mariposa)

Others Present: Catherine Chacon (Fresno, proxy for Mike Drake), Courtney Park (Kern, proxy for Fahra Daredia), Abby Mattos (Tulare Public)

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Boyer proposed amending the agenda to add an action item recommending a subscription to The New York Times. After the agenda was posted, SJVLS was notified of an opportunity to continue the subscription to The New York Times that is currently provided by the California State Library but is expiring on June 30, 2025.

The amendment was unanimously approved.

The agenda is amended to add the new action item as F-3: ACTION: Recommend Systemwide Subscription to The New York Times. All subsequent agenda items, previously identified as F-3, F-4, and F-5 are amended to be items F-4, F-5, and F-6.

The agenda was adopted as amended.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Regular Meeting: April 17, 2025
The minutes were approved.
Motion: Deshpande (Merced)
Second: Clark (Tulare Public)

F. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

1. DISCUSSION: Digital Magazines and Newspapers

Committee members discussed the trial access to Flipster, NewsStand, and PressReader. Nuhfer (Kings), Deshpande, and Clark shared favorable perspectives on Flipster. Members discussed potential concerns with digital magazine subscriptions. Some libraries see consistent usage of print magazines and expect patron reluctance to use digital magazines. Members reported that some communities are reluctant to embrace any digital content. Other member libraries are seeing good usage from their current digital magazine subscriptions and intend to keep those even if the system were to offer digital magazines to all libraries.

Despite the above concerns, members agreed to consider the recommendation of Flipster as a systemwide subscription for digital magazines.

2. ACTION: Recommend Digital Magazine Resource Subscription

Clark motioned to recommend the addition of Flipster as a systemwide resource for digital magazines. Deshpande seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Boyer will share the recommendation with Chris Wymer to present to Admin Council.

3. ACTION: Recommend Systemwide Subscription to The New York Times

Boyer shared that the California State Library has announced that funding for The New York Times will not be renewed, and access will end on June 30, 2025.

Califa is offering discounted pricing to California public libraries at approximately the same discounted rate that the State Library was receiving. Exact discounts and pricing are still to be determined but are expected to be between \$45,000 and \$60,000 annually, depending on which subscription level is selected. Califa and The New York Times are offering a Basic subscription to include everything that libraries had access to through the State Library and an All-Access subscription that also includes Cooking, Games, The Athletic, and Wirecutter.

Clark motioned to add The New York Times as a systemwide resource. Madrigal-Ward (Madera) seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Boyer will work with Califa on exact pricing and will share the recommendation with Chris Wymer to present to Admin Council.

4. DISCUSSION: Tutor.com Setup and Orientation

Boyer and Chris Wymer met with Tutor.com to discuss setup. Our customer success manager has requested local contact information for training, troubleshooting, and access to usage statistics. She is also interested in marketing and programming plans your libraries may have.

Members discussed the information requested by Tutor.com. Because of the number of details to be collected, SJVLS will create a form for libraries to submit their preferences. Boyer will also provide the committee with the start date for Tutor.com (July 1, 2025).

5. DISCUSSION: Followup on Marketing

Boyer wants to provide marketing materials for one of our newer resources, probably Tutor.com. Our customer success manager is working on marketing and promotional materials.

Vendors usually provide ready-to-use graphics for social media and online use and include customizable templates. System office still wants to help with providing printed materials.

Kings, Merced, Tulare County and Tulare Public are interested in printed materials like posters and bookmarks.

Fresno and Kern have graphics staff and/or can print their own promotional materials.

Boyer will continue to work on what the system office can provide and will talk to each interested library about what they need.

6. DISCUSSION: ERC Meeting Schedule

It feels like there may be some meeting fatigue among committee members. Perhaps it's the inconsistent meeting schedule or the need for additional meetings to formally recommend new resources that were dropped by the State Library or presented with little notice.

Boyer recently proposed quarterly meetings to Chris Wymer. That would still be consistent with meeting schedule directions from Admin Council and should allow the committee to address regular business in a timely manner.

Members stressed the importance of regular meetings, especially face-to-face meetings, to keep up with resources, to provide information to library staff, and to support patron needs. With current budget uncertainty for individual libraries, committee meetings keep member libraries informed about what the system can provide to help the libraries.

Members agreed to try a quarterly meeting schedule.

G. STATUS UPDATE ON SYSTEM RESOURCES

1. Pronunciator

We have Pronunciator for another year through June 2026.

Usage is down significantly compared to the start of our subscription in 2016-17. Usage is stable over the last five years but cost-per-use remains very high.

Highest number of new users was recorded in January 2025. Checkouts, holds, and active users have all increased since the start of the fiscal year. System office will continue to monitor usage and hopes to see cost-per-use decline.

2. CloudLibrary

The number of new and active users is consistent month-to-month. Checkouts and holds continue to increase.

Compared to last year at this point:

- New Users: up 41.8%
- Active Users: up 57.3%
- Total Checkouts: up 57.1%
- Holds: up 167.7%.

Amber suggested modifying our circulation and holds limits to increase usage. Raising circ limits will give currently shelved titles more of a chance to circulate.

All member libraries allow more checkouts, holds, and suggestions than we allow in our shared CloudLibrary collection. Loan periods are also longer in Libby and hoopla collections. Being more cautious and restrictive probably made sense initially when we had a small collection and small annual budget. With a larger budget in recent years and consistent ordering, it might be worthwhile to expand the CloudLibrary limits.

Members suggested increasing the number of checkouts from 3 to 5, the number of holds from 5 to 10, and the loan period from 14 days to 21 days. Boyer will increase the settings for the beginning of the 2025-26 fiscal year.

3. Gale: GetSetUp

Kendra Gilmour, our new Gale consultant, has provided information on GetSetUp. Gale can provide more courses and unlimited simultaneous access compared to what we had access to when the resource was offered by the State Library. If anyone is interested in GetSetUp or had success with it when it was supplied by the State Library, we can look into pricing as an individual or system subscription.

H. CALENDAR ITEMS

The date of the next meeting will be determined later.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Reading Programs are happening at all libraries.

Madera had their first student graduate from Career Online High School. They were able to provide a Chromebook as a long-term loan to support the student.

Kings was also able to provide Chromebooks and hotspots on long-term loans to support two Career Online High School students who graduated in less than a year.

Tulare Public has had repeated success with Career Online High School, with six students graduating.

Merced County opened a new Dos Palos Branch Library in May.

J. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.