

A ConnectNY Report



ConnectNY

E-Resources Working Group Final Report

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The E-Resources Licensing Working Group was formed to achieve an objective assigned to CNY's Strategic Statement 2, "ConnectNY develops new models of e-resource licensing", and Goal 2-1, "Provide new or alternative models of e-resource licensing aligned with realistic needs and available financial resources". This final report provides an overview of the Working Group's activities and their final recommendations.

Overview of Working Group Activities

The working group conducted a thorough literature search on consortia e-resource licensing models. We conducted an inventory of the A-Z resource lists of CNY members, specifically requesting information on subscribed resources, including databases, journal packages, e-reference, and streaming content. Member libraries were instructed that it was not necessary to remove eBook packages and one-time purchases from the A-Z lists. Member libraries were also asked to identify any consortia relationships associated with resources. This data was standardized, summarized, and visually presented at the CNY Collaboration Day event (See Appendix). Following the presentation of data, breakout groups answered a series of questions distributed by the working group. These responses are incorporated into our final recommendations.

Working Group meetings were held weekly via conference call, and the group communicated frequently through Basecamp. All working documents were added to Basecamp.

Summary of Working Group Findings

The working group found the saturation of existing consortia agreements to be a significant obstacle in finding new models and recommendations for e-resource licensing. In all, excluding CNY, ten consortia relationships were represented in member A-Z lists, with Empire State Library Network (ESLN) counting as a single consortium. Individual libraries reported working with as many as six consortia for e-resource licensing. Few patterns emerged among resources in which invoicing occurred directly from publishers or vendors.

- Our data showed a significant financial investment, and an absence of consortia licensing, in historical newspapers, magazine archives, and primary source collections from providers such as Newsbank/Readex, Ebsco, Proquest, Adam Matthew, and Gale. Subscription and purchase models are often available for these types of resources. Further investigation is needed to determine the level of interest and existing licensing models among CNY libraries.
- Streaming content was an area of interest among the working group. In 2014, the Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC) launched a pilot program with eight libraries in New York State using the

popular streaming platform, Kanopy (Knab, Humphrey, & Ward, 2016). It was determined that there was no financial advantage to consortia licensing, and the lack of duplicate title triggers among libraries was a significant downside. Furthermore, recent correspondence with Kanopy regarding consortia licensing was discouraging and suggests that it may not be a project worth pursuing at this time.

- Much discussion occurred among the Working Group members over the potential value of an e-resource information-sharing portal for CNY libraries. This suggestion received very positive feedback during the Collaboration Day breakout sessions.
- The data collected showed many variations of ProQuest bundling among CNY libraries. It may be worthwhile to identify common ground and investigate the possibility of a CNY bundle.

Working Group Recommendations

Based on commonalities found in the A-Z inventory lists, and feedback collected on Collaboration Day, we make the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1

The following recommended resources should be explored for consortial licensing. They showed no current consortia involvement and were common subscriptions among three or more CNY libraries:

- Roper Center IPOLL and Birds of North America Online (Cornell University)
- Cabell's Directories
- IBISWorld

Recommendation #2

The Working Group recommends pursuing both one-time purchases and subscription models of e-reference titles from vendors such as Oxford & Gale. Potential cost savings of a shared title list could include title discounts and or shared hosting fees.

Recommendation #3

Create a CNY E-Resource Committee. This committee will provide input on products, subscriptions, and services (with the exception of the E-book Program products) that may be of interest to the CNY membership.

- Focuses on cooperative resource management issues.

- Recommends new policies and procedures.
- Performs periodic reviews of vendor performance and user satisfaction.
- Works in conjunction with E-book Committee as needed.
- Explore the possibility of a portal for sharing e-resource information across CNY.
- Explore new resource opportunities and alternative licensing models.

Work Cited

Knab, S., Humphrey, T., & Ward, C. (2016). Now streaming: a consortial PDA video pilot project. *Collaborative Librarianship*, (1), 41.