

PUBLIC LIBRARIES SOUTH AUSTRALIA- March 2010 Quarterly

Public Libraries South Australia Levies 2010/1011

Purpose

To provide the South Australian Public Library network with an update on the levies for 2010/2011.

Print Disability

The Print Disability levy has been set at 1.64% of the total materials budget for some years.

While the collection is called a "Print Disability Collection" following the recommendations from a survey of PLSA members a few years ago we have predominantly been buying commercial audio books which have no copyright restrictions and can be borrowed by anyone. Therefore in reality this is a centrally managed audio book collection with much of it available to all library borrowers.

PLS is facilitating a working party of library staff to examine alternatives to, or complements to a physical collection. This may take the form of downloadable digital audio materials. This research project will conclude in June. Depending on the recommendations of the working party and the views of PLSA members the mechanisms for providing this service may change.

However as PLSA members usually make levy recommendations in March it is recommended that the levy stays constant for one more year. This will allow an orderly assessment of options should any change be recommended and accepted.

Therefore PLS recommends that the **levy remain at 1.64%** of total materials, which will contribute approximately **\$115,000** to the central audio book collection in the 2010/2011-year.

Community Languages

In 2006 PLSA members recommended that the Community Languages (LOTE) levy gradually be increased in recognition of the proportion of the SA community whose first language is not English.

Applying the formula, which was recommended by PLSA and approved by the Libraries Board in May 2006, the **CL Levy will move to 4.5%** in 2010/2011. This is a 0.3% increase.

This levy will contribute approximately **\$315,000** for Community Languages materials and cataloguing next year. This figure is a \$21,000 increase over the 2009/2010 year.

Applying the agreed formula, the levy will continue to increase by 0.3% each year from 3.3% in 2006-2007 to 6% in 2015-2016.

PLS will continue to apply the formula from the 2006 agreement in subsequent years or until a decision is taken to change this approach.

The Community Languages Steering Committee has requested that PLS investigate future models for the funding of Community Languages cataloguing and end processing costs.

While CL items were originally rotated between libraries with minimal cataloguing a decision was taken several years ago that all CL items should be fully catalogued to improve accessibility. Given the increase in access, which would be generated through this process, it was agreed that the cataloguing costs for the CL stock would be funded from within the annual levy. It is

estimated that just over 25% of the levied monies is expended on cataloguing and end processing, thereby reducing the volume of materials, which can be purchased.

The investigation of options has been completed, however agreement by the Steering Committee and the PLSA Executive still needs to occur. Therefore, like the print disability review process it is recommended that the Community Languages Levy remains as per the agreed formula until there is a resolution to this investigation process.

Online Resources

In 2009 the Online Assessment team recommended that four online resources be purchased for the SA Public Library Network. These are:

- Ancestry Library
- Press Display
- Health & Wellness
- Encyclopaedia Britannica

The PLSA Executive at its meeting in November 2009 endorsed a recommendation from the Online Assessment team to continue the subscriptions for another 12 months before embarking on an evaluation of their usage.

Several of the online databases are purchased are in priced in US\$. There have been some unpredictable fluctuations in the US\$ / A\$ exchange rate over the last few years, however of late these fluctuations have worked in our favour. Therefore the levy fund has built up a surplus.

It is predicted that the databases will cost \$191,000 next year.

Whereas last year the levy of 2.77% raised \$194,000 last year, it is recommended that the **Levy drop to 2.35%** for the 2010/2011 year to raise **\$164,000**. Some of the surplus (\$27,000) will be applied to the part payment for the databases, with some retained as a hedge against exchange rate uncertainty.

Recommendation

That Public Libraries South Australia endorses the 2010/2011levies for the

- **Print Disability Collection at 1.64%**
- **Community Languages at 4.5%**
- **Online Resources at 2.35%**

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