



Item

22 February 2012

## **PUBLIC LIBRARIES SOUTH AUSTRALIA EXECUTIVE**

### **South Australian Public Library Network Levies 2012-2013**

#### **Proposal**

To provide the PLSA membership with information for the 2012-13 levy vote.

#### **Background**

The South Australian public library network is built on a collaborative effective foundation of consortium purchasing. Each year at its March quarterly meeting, the PLSA membership votes on the percentage of materials grant funds which will be used to provide state-wide resources through a range of levies. These recommendations regarding the levies are then provided to the Libraries Board for consideration and subsequent approval.

#### **Discussion**

##### ***Levy Calculation***

Levies are calculated as a percentage of the total materials budget. Figures used in this report are approximate because the 2012-13 budget is yet to be declared.

##### ***Community Languages -5.1% represents \$369,430 in 2012-13***

In 2007 the PLSA Executive reviewed the expenditure of network funds for the purchase of Community Languages materials and resources. At that time a decision was taken (and endorsed by the Libraries Board) that the levy would steadily increase until 2015-2016 when it will reach 6% of the total materials grant. To achieve this outcome the grant has been steadily increased by 0.3% each year.

The figure of 6% is based on ABS survey information, which indicated at the time that 12% of South Australians speak a language other than English as their 'first' or primary language. On the basis that approximately 50% of the community are library borrowers, the PLSA Executive agreed to gradually raise this levy to be 6% of the materials funds.

In 2012-13, the Community Languages levy will increase to 5.1%, which will be approximately \$369,430. Expenditure is composed of:

- Language materials and cataloguing (\$354,450)
- MyLanguage website - \$14,980 (ex GST) – a national consortium of State and territory libraries to support projects and library access for people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. See <http://www.mylanguage.gov.au/>

In 2012-13 PLS will continue to work with the Community Languages Managers Steering Committee to improve the range of resources available for CALD communities. In March 2012 a

number of customer focus groups will be facilitated in libraries to provide feedback on Community Languages materials, services and resources. The feedback will be used to inform the purchasing of Community languages materials for 2012-13 and to improve engagement with this sector of the community.

The following data for 2010-11 Community Languages purchasing is provided as background information:

- Items are purchased in 22 languages
- Volumes purchased: 6,965
- Average book price: \$26.02
- Average cataloguing cost: \$12.28

Additional information regarding Community languages purchasing for 2010-11 is contained in Appendix 1.

	2009-2010	2010-2011	%
Loans	453,740	419,527	-7.54%
Stock	99,917	96,875	-3.04%

Loans in Chinese 69,131, Polish 19,244 and Vietnamese 146,156 continue to have steady usage by the community. Additional information on Community language loans and stock is contained in Appendix 2.

### **Online Resources - 2.00% represents \$144,875 in 2012-13**

On behalf of the South Australian public library network, PLS currently subscribes to three Online Resources, funded by a levy. These are:

- Ancestry (genealogical resource) \$A55,320
- World Book + Public Libraries Discover \$A49,000
- Press Display (online newspapers from around the world) \$A59,335 (TBC)
- **TOTAL = \$163,655**

Due to sustained favourable exchange rates over several years, there is currently \$41,000 in unspent funds from the 2011-12 levy. A levy of 2% or \$145,000 along with the unspent funds would adequately fund the above subscriptions in 2012-13 whilst still managing exchange rate uncertainty.

PLS has monitored the usage of each resource and maintained a close relationship with the vendors to maximise usage. Training has been provided to network members, and a range of promotional materials have been developed.

Database Activity Summaries have been provided to demonstrate steady usage of Ancestry Library Edition. The first date range takes into account commencement dates.

	Mar 2009-Mar 10	Jan 2010-Jan 11	Jan 2011-Jan12
Ancestry Library edition	261,518	732,512	639,911

Library Press Display has steadily increased since the commencement of the subscription. The first date range takes into account commencement dates.

	July 2009-Jan 10	Jan 2010-Jan 11	Jan 2011-Jan12
PressDisplay	7,798	97,719	108,735

World Book is a new subscription. Statistics provided are for its usage over the past six months. It should be noted that school holidays cause a decline in encyclopaedia usage over December and January. Promotion and training from the vendor will be actively sought during 2012 to encourage use in network libraries and remotely by library customers.

	August 2011	Sept 2011	Oct 2011	Nov 2011	Dec 2011	Jan 2012
World Book Online + Discover	70,740	52,740	49,120	49,360	11,500	8,180

As the area of online resources continues to change rapidly, PLS will work with the PLSA Executive to keep this area under constant review. Consideration will be given to value for money, changes in freely available resources on the Internet and accessibility for all library users as key determinants to the amount of funds allocated to this resource area.

It is anticipated that the use of Online Resources may rise as the LMS with the Enterprise front end is rolled out if we are able to make the information in these resources becomes more accessible.

***Print Disability - 0.82% represents \$59,399 in 2012-13***

The South Australian public library network allocated a levy of 1.23% in 2011-12 which equated to approximately \$76,000 for the purchase of Print Disability materials and the accompanying catalogue records and end processing.

A review of the Print Disability collection was undertaken by The Digital Audio Content working party in 2010. The Digital Content Report is located on the intranet at <http://www.libraries.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=289>. It was recommended that all purchases for the Print Disability collection be solely commercial products with no copyright restrictions. This has been implemented in 2011-12.

Advances in technology are supporting the transition of print disability services into the digital format. Moving to digital delivery will give PD customers more choice of materials and reduce the manual tasks of managing, maintaining and circulating physical items, which are prone to loss and damage. The phased reduction of 0.25% pa of the PD levy will see a gradual transition of the collection to allow for customers who prefer CDs to still have access to materials. In 2011-12 all Print Disability materials were purchased, catalogued and processed through PLS contracted suppliers, thereby leveraging off network cataloguing.

In 2011, PLS was successful in securing 132 digital devices through ALIA-FaSCHIA initiative which provided a combination of Daisy Players and Audio Read Navigators. Customers with Daisy players have access to the Vision Australia library of digital content. Audio Read Navigator customers are able to utilise a one off digital download subscription, as well as MP3 format materials.

It is considered that this will give PD customers a number of options and assist in the gradual transition of the PD collection to digital format. The 1LMS will improve access to Audio books held in libraries.

***Digital Content - 3.0% represents \$217,312 in 2012-13***

In March 2011 the network voted in favour of a Digital Content Levy, to provide a platform to deliver audio books in the first instance and e Books.

It was envisaged that establishing a shared state-wide digital resource from one or more vendors would be a collaborative and cost saving way to embrace this new technology.

The current digital market is immature, with new vendors entering the marketplace constantly and existing vendors constantly changing their offerings. The Digital Content working party has considered all the products and whilst there is not one ideal solution, it is considered important for the network to provide digital content to its customers.

At the PLSA Executive meeting in February, PLS has been asked to seek additional information, costing's and directly negotiate with one supplier to deliver a network digital content solution.

This information will then be the basis of a paper to the PLSA Executive to consider, digital content network solution.

In 2012-13, the Digital Content levy is 3.0%, which will be approximately \$217,312.

### **Conclusion**

The following table demonstrates the levy recommendations

Levies	<b>2011-12</b> %	<b>2011-12</b> \$	<b>2012-13</b> %	<b>2012-13</b> \$	<b>\$ changes in funding</b>
Community Languages	4.8	342,000	5.1	369,430	27,430
Online Resources	2.00	142,000	2.0	144,875	2,875
Print Disability Collection	1.23	88,000	0.82	59,399	-28,601
Digital Content	3.0	214,000	3.00	217,312	3,312
<b>Total Levy</b>	<b>11.03</b>	<b>786,000</b>	<b>10.92</b>	<b>791,015</b>	<b>5,015</b>

### **Recommendation**

That the PLSA Executive recommends to its members the following levies for 2012-13:

1. As per PLSA recommendation in 2007 the Community Language levy to increase from 4.8% to 5.1% (an increase of \$27,430)
2. Online Resources 2.0% (an increase of \$2,875)
3. Print Disability Collection levy to 0.82% (a decrease of \$28,601)
4. Digital Content levy of 3.0% (an increase of \$3,312)

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