MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

B. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS
Members Present: Alyssa Furin (Fresno), Fahra Daredia (Kern), Ashley Nuhfer (Kings), Alma Madrigal-Ward (Madera), Smruti Deshpande (Merced), Yer Vang (Tulare County), Maria Marquez (Tulare Public)
Members Absent: Nathan Vosburg (Coalinga-Huron), Matt Johnson (Mariposa)
Others Present: Tony Arellano (Porterville)

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
The agenda was adopted as written.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT
None

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2023
Item F2 should be amended to correct the spelling of “Digital Resources.”
Motion: Deshpande (Merced)
Second: Marquez (Tulare Public)
The minutes as amended were unanimously approved.

F. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

1. DISCUSSION: Update on Patron Survey Potential Resources

Boyer and Nuhfer attended the Admin Council meeting on February 2, 2024 and presented the directors with an overview of ERC’s discussions on systemwide resource offerings, the patron survey and results, and the committee’s target categories for resources for FY25-26. Those resources are:

- Book recommendations
- Streaming Video
- Digital Newspapers
- Online Courses and Learning Platforms
- Digital Music / Streaming Audio
- Education / Learning / General Research
- Digital Magazines
- Automotive Repair
- Language Learning
- eBooks / Audiobooks
- Marketing / Tutorials

Most categories are currently offered either by SJVLS or through State Library subscriptions (pending budget changes for next fiscal year). Streaming video, audio, and digital magazines would be new additions. Boyer will talk to vendors about products and pricing can allow us to offer those resources.

Boyer had a conversation with Amanda Ulrich at hoopla regarding consortia platform. Hoopla is working on enhanced product for consortia that will probably be ready later this year. SJVLS is still looking at providing ebooks and audiobooks and not at other resources hoopla offers. Some libraries have moved their audiobooks to hoopla and kept ebooks on other platforms. Furin (Fresno) and Nuhfer (Kings) suggested that separating ebooks and audiobooks into unique cloudLibrary and hoopla collections could be confusing to patrons. ERC will look at hoopla again when new consortium product is released later this year.

Boyer also discussed career training resources with Hondo Rojano at EBSCO. Rojano provided information on BlueCareer, a trade school focused resource companion to Learning Express. Committee members will individually research BlueCareer. Initial perspectives suggested it could be a good solution for requests for trade school preparation that isn't covered in existing resources. Boyer and/or committee members will follow up with Jimmie King at EBSCO after further research.

2. DISCUSSION: State Library Resources: K-12 Online Content and CAreer Pathways

The state budget for 2024-25 does not currently include funding for CAreer Pathways resources beyond June 2024. Hondo Rojano indicated that EBSCO has recently discussed Learning Express with the State Library and is offering subscriptions to individual libraries who want to continue to offer Learning Express once State Library funding ends. Furin reported that EBSCO has contacted Fresno about continuing Learning Express. Because online learning and career prep received high interest in the recent patron survey, members suggested that offering an additional resource in this category would be a good option when State Library funding ends. Boyer will ask committee members for usage stats from the various State Library-funded resources to determine which vendors to contact regarding separate subscriptions. No one has seen an indication that funding for K-12 Online Content resources is affected.

3. DISCUSSION: Brown Act Overview

Admin Council recently discussed Brown Act rules that govern meetings and discussions. Due to recent membership changes on ERC and previous questions, Boyer provided the same information. Boyer summarized the rules for in-person and virtual meetings and explained why we can't consistently hold hybrid meetings. Discussions of committee business and policy are also covered by Brown Act rules. Questions and conversations between committee members are encouraged but should be individual conversations. In the case of questions asked to the entire committee, responses should be addressed only to the person who asked the question. If there is widespread interest or comment, topics should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting so they can be discussed officially as a committee.
G. STATUS UPDATE ON SYSTEM RESOURCES

Deshpande noticed that some usage stats for system resources were not updated on OneDrive. Those stats have been updated. If anyone notices problems or missing stats, please notify Boyer.

H. CALENDAR ITEMS

The next meeting will tentatively be held on April 18, 2024 at the Hanford Branch Library.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deshpande shared that Merced has not yet implemented the SirsiDynix Community Engagement Platform, a marketing and notification tool. Members discussed pending branch library closures related to infrastructure improvement projects.

J. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.