



Electronic Resources Committee Regular Meeting

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

April 17, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Teleconference

DRAFT MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

B. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Members Present: Mike Drake (Fresno), Ashley Nuhfer (Kings), Matt Johnson (Mariposa), Smruti Deshpande (Merced), Alisha Rodriguez (Tulare County), Heidi Clark (Tulare Public)

Members Absent: Nathan Vosburg (Coalinga-Huron), Fahra Daredia (Kern), Alma Madrigal-Ward (Madera)

Others Present: Courtney Park (proxy for Kern)

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as written.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

E. APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 20, 2025, MEETING

The minutes were approved.

F. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

1. DISCUSSION: Digital magazine vendors and trials

Boyer reminded the committee that members have trial access to Flipster (EBSCO), NewsStand, and Comics Plus (CloudLibrary). Access credentials and information, pricing, and title lists for both products are available to the committee on OneDrive. Similar information for PressReader will be available once trial access to that resource is provided.

System has budgeted for the addition of a digital magazines resource for FY2025-26. A new resource could be added with no immediate budget impact on the individual member libraries. Once everyone has had a chance to explore trial access to the different resources, it might be necessary to hold a special meeting in May so the committee can make a recommendation on which product should be added.

2. DISCUSSION: Tutor.com

Selection of a tutoring resource had been on hold due to changes in State requirements and to allow Admin Council to investigate the availability of tutoring services through school districts within the service area. Admin Council determined it was still appropriate to offer tutoring through the library and approved the recommendation of Tutor.com as our provider. The contract will begin when the existing subscription to Brainfuse products expires in August or September of this year.

Admin Council has requested that ERC provide marketing and promotion materials to assist patrons in the transition from HelpNow to Tutor.com. Boyer intends to work with Tutor.com to review their available promotional materials to see if they have anything suitable for our transition. More information to come once System establishes a formal contract and we have support contacts.

3. DISCUSSION: Marketing ideas

When new systemwide resources are added, the System office has typically pointed ERC members to the vendor's support site for graphics and marketing materials. Boyer questioned whether it would be worthwhile for the System office to do more and assist members with the creation of posters, flyers, handouts, etc. that could be customized for each member library. Fresno, Tulare County, Tulare Public interested in something that would help give local staff a head start. Boyer will contact committee members to determine which libraries are interested and how the System Office can help.

4. DISCUSSION: EBSCO Resources

Janice Lentz from EBSCO provided information on BlueCareer and Financial Fit. ERC has previously reviewed both resources. Both would work better with library outreach programs than as separate system resources without related programming. Flyers are available on committee OneDrive.

Janice also discussed NoveList, which SJVLS had access to under the previous database package through EBSCO. We have used Syndetics Unbound for readers advisory content since 2020. Boyer asked members if that has been sufficient for library and patron needs or if we need to consider additional readers advisory as a system service. Clark suggested that committee members look at their library needs and discuss at a future meeting.

G. STATUS UPDATE ON SYSTEM RESOURCES

Boyer met with Amber Laude to discuss CloudLibrary usage. Checkouts, holds, and active users during the first quarter of 2025 have increased significantly compared to same period last year.

Boyer plans to look at similar stats comparisons for other systemwide resources to examine use over time.

Pronunciator usage has declined compared to previous years, increasing the cost per use. Mango Languages has contacted System and other libraries. Drake asked about cost comparison between Pronunciator and Mango. Boyer did not have a quote for Mango, but will ask about costs. Clark suggested that because we are looking at

adding magazines and will be switching tutoring resources, it might be better to keep our current language learning resource for now.

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

I. CALENDAR ITEMS

The next meeting will be on June 12, 2025, at the Visalia Branch Library.

J. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.