Electronic Resources Advisory Committee
December 10, 2013 at 9:00-11:00
Sidney Memorial Library in their PCC

Committee members attending: Jennifer Keysor (BCPL), Ed Dunscombe (EN), Mary King (GR), Sarah Livingston (ON), Connie Dalrymple (NOR), Ben Lainhart (SI), Megan Biddle (4CLS), and Pamela Brown (facilitator)

Excused: Sherry Kowalski (BCPL) and Claire Ottman (CV)

1. Introductions
   After introductions, the notes from the last meeting were reviewed.

2. Interim review of 2013 Research Center usage
   Pamela handed out a table with the current session usage for the databases to which 4CLS subscribes. It was discussed that these numbers are derived from the 4CLS proxy server, which records only sessions initialed from the Research Center website. If the databases are accessed in other ways (e.g., through a member library's website), that usage is not included. It is possible to obtain usage data from each database vendor, but years ago 4CLS decided not to use those reports, since vendors define usage in different ways. Using the proxy server reports compares the same information for all members and also includes the databases provided through other arrangements.

3. Interim review of 2013 Download Zone usage
   A chart was distributed showing Download Zone usage from implementation (in January 2011) through early December 2013. There was a discussion regarding how selecting new materials can be confusing, because OverDrive provides selection lists that suggest a title may be on order already when it is not. Megan will look into this and will also be removing old lists on the first of each month.

4. Demonstration of ZINIO, a subscription service for digital magazines
   Pamela provided a demonstration of ZINIO, a product from Records Books that several members had suggested might be a good addition to the services provided to 4CLS members and their patrons. While ZINIO is very appealing, especially to those who use mobile devices, it is expensive and would involve both an annual vendor fee as well as annual subscriptions to individual magazines. ERAC recommended not pursuing ZINIO at this time.

5. Review of the 2014 budget for electronic products
   It was discussed that the only way to obtain money to enhance either the Research Center or Download Zone is to drop a database subscription. Further, because most of the funding that would become available comes from either Central Library Development Aid (CLDA) or Collective Book Aid (CBA), that money must to be used for adult non-fiction materials. ERAC advised 4CLS not to renew any database subscriptions until the committee can meet again

in the spring and make a recommendation. Based on usage, if a database were to be dropped, it would likely be Auto Repair Reference Center.

6. Mango vs. non-English language free websites
    Pamela observed that are is a proliferation of free websites to help learn another language. Ed demonstrated Mango Language, a product EN has found to be valuable for their patrons. He also recommended considering adding Consumer Reports to the Research Center but has been unable to get a quotation for EN. ERAC asked Pamela to obtain quotations for both the Mango Languages or Consumer Reports databases. A decision will be made in the spring.

7. Discussion of possible changes to the Download Zone website
    At previous meetings, ERAC had discussed updating the Download Zone website. Since then OverDrive has done an update it seems to address ERAC's concerns and is working well for users. However, ERAC asked that the link to the Download Zone (i.e., the website OverDrive maintains for us) from 4CLS's Download Zone FAQ webpage on Enterprise be made more clear.   Pamela will investigate a better way to indicate that the DZ logo is also a button/link for accessing the Download Zone.

8. Review of ERAC assignments for DZ selection responsibilities
    The schedule for 2014 was distributed.

9. Plans for a group purchase of Download Zone promotional materials vs. members providing their own
    ERAC recommended members use the templates that OverDrive provides to print their own promotion materials, in lieu of trying to do a group purchase. Pamela will investigate ways to make the templates more accessible to members and will make an announcement in the when this is done.

10. Around the table with other topics

11. Spring ERAC meeting: Monday, May 12 at 9:30-11:30