

**MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM**  
**Resource Sharing Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Date:** Friday, March 27, 2026

**Location:** Zoom

**Committee members attending:**

- |                                               |                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| ✓ Hanna Bachrach (Columbia)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Barbara Flach (Greene) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shea Wert (Columbia) | ✓ Donna Perolli (Putnam)                        |
| ✓ Tom Lawrence (Dutchess)                     | ✓ Johanna Reinhardt (Putnam)                    |
| ✓ Courtney Tsahalís (Dutchess)                | ✓ Gabrielle Esposito (Ulster)                   |
| ✓ Jaki Elmo-Emel (Greene)                     | ✓ Gisi Vella (Ulster)                           |

**Staff Attending:** Laurie Shedrick (MHLS), Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (MHLS), Nina Acosta (MHLS)

**Others Attending:**

**Call to Order:** 10:00 AM

**Secretary Identified:** Gabrielle Esposito

**Approval of Minutes**

**January 22, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

- Reviewed and approved.
  - **Motion:** Gisella Vella
  - **Second:** Tom Lawrence
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**Discussion Items**

**1. Review of OverDrive Holds Charts**

**Background:** Continuing discussion regarding the request from UCLA to limit OverDrive Holds to 5.

**Request:** UCLA asked to lower the number of holds patrons can place.

**Status:** Not approved; still under review due to unclear data implications.

**Key Discussion Points:**

- Current data (especially from OverDrive) is complex and difficult to interpret.
- Major issue: **difference between active vs. suspended holds**
  - Suspended holds are not currently counted in key reports.
  - This creates uncertainty in understanding true demand.
- Concerns that lowering thresholds could:
  - Distort collection development data
  - Lead to unnecessary purchasing
  - Misrepresent actual patron demand

- Data is considered a **snapshot in time**, not yet reliable for decision-making.
- Broader concern about **cost vs. usage alignment** and system-wide equity.

#### Consensus:

- No immediate change to holds thresholds.
  - Clarify that standards apply to **active holds only**.
  - Continue tracking data over time before making decisions.
  - Consider a **patron survey** to better understand usage behavior.
  - Send a response to UCLA indicating:
    - More time and data are needed
    - Current systems are too dynamic to support a change
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## 2. Holds-to-Copies Purchasing Ratio

**Current Policy:** Libraries should own 1 system-wide-holdable copy for each 4-7 holds; 2 copies for 8-14 holds; and 3 copies for 15-23 holds to be picked up at their location or downloaded.

*~Approved by Directors Association 2/9/2023.*

#### Clarifications in light of recent OverDrive developments:

- Apply counts to **active holds only**
  - Distinguish **system-wide vs. local copies**
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## 3. Vega Reporting & Catalog Analytics

**Overview:** New reporting tools through Vega will provide:

- Catalog usage data (searches, clicks, time spent)
- Patron behavior insights
- Library-specific analytics dashboards

#### Development Status:

- Custom reports in progress with vendor (Innovative)
- Potential integration into annual reporting
- Considered a **promising, early-stage tool**

## 4. SMS Text Messaging Issues

#### Current Status:

- Uses unclear language (“SMS subscription”)
- Not user-friendly or transparent
- Messages are missed or delayed

**Recommendation:** Rework messaging language and system setup before proceeding

## 5. P-Type Patron Record Cleanup Project

**Overview:** Ongoing effort to remove outdated/inactive patron records

**Progress:** Staff training webinar held (42 attendees), and the training is available on Niche Academy. County-level implementation planned for fall

## 7. NYPL Policy Update

- New York Public Library will no longer serve patrons outside its service area through Libby
- Mid-Hudson Libraries should not be instructing MHLS patrons to apply for a NYPL card to use their online services.

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### Items to Include in DA Business Meeting Agenda – Action Items

#### Action Item #2:

**Background:** The Resource sharing standards copies to hold policy shown below does not clearly indicate that the requirement is intended to refer to the "active holds" only.

Libraries should own 1 system-wide-holdable copy for each 4-7 holds; 2 copies for 8-14 holds; and 3 copies for 15-23 holds to be picked up at their location or downloaded. *~Approved by Directors Association 2/9/2023.*

**Issue:** In Sierra and OverDrive the ability to freeze holds or suspend them removes them from the imminent demand and therefore should not be used to influence the copies to holds purchase requirement. Inserting the word "active" into the statement clarifies the intent.

**Recommendation:** Change the language of the Copies to Holds statement to read as follows:

1. Copies to Holds
  - A. Libraries should own 1 system-wide-holdable copy for each 4-7 **active** holds; 2 copies for 8-14 **active** holds; and 3 copies for 15-23 **active** holds to be picked up at their location or downloaded.