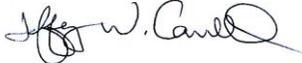




TO: Cultural Education Committee

FROM: Jeffrey Cannell 

SUBJECT: Review of digital resources in libraries

DATE: September 9, 2015

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

An update for members of the committee on the use of electronic resources in libraries in New York.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For Information. Libraries are meeting the challenge of electronic content and electronic delivery methods.

Background Information

According to a January 2014 Pew Research Center study, the percentage of adults who read an e-book in the past year has risen to 28%, up from 23% at the end of 2012. Almost half of readers under 30 read an e-book in the past year. Current trends indicate that the use of e-books by library users will continue to grow. One rural public library system in New York State reports that e-book circulation has risen over the past five years, increasing from 12,000 checkouts in 2010 to over 100,000 checkouts in the first six months of 2015 alone.

More than half of the 41 school library systems, based in the BOCES and New York City, Yonkers, Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo city school districts, reported recently in an informal survey, that the school library system or individual districts have negotiated agreements with an e-book vendor. School library system members include public school districts and nonpublic schools.

Currently, all 23 of New York State's public library systems, serving 755 public libraries with over 1,000 outlets, have regional collaborative agreements or contracts

with a vendor to provide e-resources to library card-holders of all ages. Most of the 1,000 outlets participate in these agreements. This collaborative, regional approach has achieved great cost savings for local libraries.

Staff will provide the committee with an update on the availability and use of e-resources, including the NovelNY databases provided by the Department and will review challenges and strategies for improving access to these resources.