



City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Library Trustees

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES DATE: MAY 13, 2024

FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE LIBRARY'S AUDIOVISUAL COLLECTIONS

ISSUE:

Receive a report on the audiovisual collections at the Riverside Public Library.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board of Library Trustees receives a report on the physical and digital audiovisual collections of the Riverside Public Library.

BACKGROUND:

The Riverside Public Library provides access to both physical and digital audiovisual items. The physical collection consists of over 14,000 DVDs, 6,000 audiobooks on CD, and 3,400 music CDs. The digital collections offer access to 225,000 audiobooks, movies, television shows, and music albums.

DISCUSSION:

With the decline in the production of physical DVDs and CDs, the decrease in the availability of devices on which to play these media, and the popularity of streaming media, most libraries have shifted to providing streaming options to their customers.

Library Journal recently published an article called *Full Stream Ahead: The State of Library Streaming Services* (Attachment 1), in which they reference a poll where 99% of respondents said they have a subscription to at least one streaming service; however, another study indicated "that 'subscription fatigue' is on the rise, with the overall budget people are willing to spend on streaming services declining." Library streaming services such as OverDrive's Kanopy and Hoopla are reporting growth over the past few years in both the number of library users signing up for their streaming services and the number of checkouts/hours watched by users.

In response to increased demand for free streaming media and a decline in demand for physical audiovisual media, the Riverside Public Library has gone through the process of evaluating its audiovisual collection. The Materials Selection Policy I-B-07 approved by the Board of Library

Trustees on February 13, 2021, to establish policies governing the scope and content of the Library's collection and responsibility for selection and withdrawal of materials from the collection (Attachment 2). Using the guidelines set forth in the Materials Selection Policy I-B-07 the Library has determined that 50-75% of physical DVDs, music CDs, and audiobooks no longer fit the criteria for inclusion in the collection. Items included on these lists no longer meet popular interest/demand or do not have permanent value, have not circulated in three (3) or more years, are damaged, or no longer contain accurate information. In following the Materials Selection Policy and the Policy and Procedure for Disposal of Withdrawn Library Materials VII-E-05 (Attachment 3), the Library will be withdrawing these items from the collection and offering them to the Friends of the Riverside Library for possible fundraising activities.

To address these changes in how customers consume audiovisual content, the Riverside Public Library provides access to digital services cloudLibrary and Hoopla. cloudLibrary offers access to 84,000 digital audiobooks and 189,000 ebook's. Hoopla offers streaming access to over 141,000 audiobooks, movies, television shows, and music albums, in addition to eBooks and graphic novels.

The Library is also in the process of adding Kanopy, which offers over 32,000 streaming television and movie titles, and Libby, which will provide access to over 100,000 eBook and eAudiobook titles, in addition to any titles the Library purchases. Both new platforms are expected to be available to the community by fall 2024.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This item contributes to Strategic Priority No. 5 *High Performing Government* and Goal No. 5.3 - Enhance communication and collaboration with community members to improve transparency, build public trust, and encourage shared decision-making.

This item aligns with each of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – The Materials Selection Policy ensures Board actions remain transparent and decisions are supported by sound policy and welcome community feedback.
2. **Equity** – This item promotes equality and community representation by providing streaming services to the community for free.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – This item ensures that the public is informed about how the City of Riverside is a prudent steward of public funds and ensures responsible management of the City's financial resources while providing quality public services to all.
4. **Innovation** – This item contributes to meeting the changing needs of the community by establishing an adaptive process that allows for modifications to the current Library materials collection through open public meetings.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – This item ensures that the public is informed that the City of Riverside is committed to meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future and ensuring the City of Riverside's capacity to persevere, adapt and grow

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Jessica Herdina, Assistant Library Director
Approved by: Erin Christmas, Library Director

Attachments:

1. Library Journal article, *Full Stream Ahead: The State of Library Streaming Services*
2. Riverside Public Library Materials Selection Policy, I-B-07
3. Riverside Public Library Policy and Procedure for Disposal of Withdrawn Library Materials, VII-E-05