
City Council Regular Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Community Services
FROM: Sara Miller, Deputy Director-Library
MEETING: October 16, 2023

SUBJECT:

Consider approval of a minute order for the purchase of eBooks, eAudiobooks and digital magazines through a sole source provider Bibliotheca's CloudLibrary™ online platform in the amount of \$54,045. (*Staff Contact: Sara Miller, Deputy Director-Library*)

SUMMARY:

Bibliotheca is a sole source provider for the proprietary CloudLibrary™ online platform, which is Bibliotheca's software for providing digital content to public library users. The Burleson Public Library launched its CloudLibrary™ digital collection in 2016 and currently offers 4,111 individual titles for library patrons to check out. It is one of three different options that the Library currently uses to check out digital content, the other two being Overdrive and Hoopla.

The three vendors offer different advantages. Some of them have exclusive rights to certain publishers, titles or authors. What follows is a brief explanation of each.

Our Overdrive collection is a shared collection with 33 other North Texas Libraries. All of the collection development funds are pooled and all purchases are shared between the patrons of all member libraries. The advantage to our Overdrive collection is the enormous amount of content that the group has accumulated over 16 years which provides a very broad selection for our library patrons. Our Overdrive collection averaged 1,713 checkouts per month in FY2023 and is a great value for us at \$0.32 per use.

Hoopla is a pay per use platform, so our library customers have access to the entire catalog of content and the library only pays for the items that are checked out. The advantage of Hoopla is they are the library's only provider of eComics, downloadable music and streaming video so it is a very popular option for some of our patrons. The library utilizes a monthly spending cap to stay within our budget and averaged 1,107 checkouts per month in FY2023 with a \$1.60 cost per use.

CloudLibrary™ is a standalone collection, but the library is part of a consortium of 70 Texas libraries that share content with each other through the CloudLink service. CloudLinking prioritizes our patrons by only sharing digital content that is not currently checked out or on hold for a Burleson patron. CloudLibrary™ is the only digital platform that can provide that option and

it significantly reduces hold queues for our users. Our CloudLibrary™ collection averaged 2,849 checkouts per month in FY2023, making it our most popular digital platform and averaging \$1.35 per use.

Burleson Library cardholders checked out a total of 34,184 eBooks and eAudiobooks through CloudLibrary™ in FY2023, which is a 13% increase from FY2022. Overall digital checkouts have increased 11%.

This minute order will permit staff to purchase individual eBooks, eAudiobooks and digital magazines to add to the Burleson Public Library's CloudLibrary™ collection in FY2024.

OPTIONS:

- 1) Approve as presented
- 2) Approve with changes
- 3) Deny

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approving the minute order for the purchase of eBooks, eAudiobooks and digital magazines on Bibliotheca's CloudLibrary™ online platform in the amount not to exceed \$54,045.

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

The associated cost of the purchases is not to exceed \$54,045 for the fiscal year.

Library account number 1016001 64001 for \$8,045.

Library account number 1016001 61005 for \$46,000.

STAFF CONTACT:

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