

Action Item 2: Cataloged Items With No Fines

Proposed Change to Circulation Matrix:

Submitted by: Richard Groves, Director of Catoosa County Library

I would like to request that PINES either create a new circulation modifier or edit an existing circ modifier with \$0.00 as the recurring (low) fine level so that we have the option to NOT charge fines for certain items. Specifically, we have a paperback romance collection that we would like to be cataloged, but to be fine-free.

Survey Results:

The following summary is based on survey results from 36 PINES Subcommittee members and Directors representing 28 library systems. One question was asked:

Do you approve of this proposed change?

Summary of All Responses:

	Responses	Percentage
Yes	24	67%
No	7	19%
Not Sure	5	14%

Responses from Cataloging Subcommittee Members:

	Responses	Percentage
Yes	5	50%
No	2	20%
Not Sure	3	30%

Responses from Other Subcommittee Members:

	Responses	Percentage
Yes	6	75%
No	1	13%
Not Sure	1	13%

Responses from Directors who are not Subcommittee Members:

	Responses	Percentage
Yes	13	72%
No	4	22%
Not Sure	1	6%

Comments in Favor of the Change

- Approve of the proposed change as long as use of the new circmod is optional
- Seems reasonable to have an option for no fines.

Comments Against the Change

- If you want to take the time to catalog something, there should be a fine structure included. Otherwise, check them out like magazines to get the circulation count. Or have them as a swap or honor system.
- All or nothing, y'all.
- I suggest: new circ. mod. with no default fines, named in such a way that it can be connected back to a reportable category. (For instance, we use circ. mods. for a goodly number of our reports -- a new one would need to be meaningful in a way more so than just "library material with no fines".)
- We have a paperback swap collection. They do not go through the computer, but are swapped on honor system. I think that every item which is cataloged should have a fine to ensure that it is returned. That is why we have a fine on materials. Not all libraries have a swap collection, but I think that is an alternative for those who want to stock certain materials but do not want to charge a late fee for them.

Other Comments

- All items added to the collection should be assessed a monetary value. This is important for insurance purposes. If the library faces a catastrophe, the monetary value of the collection "may" be totally or partially recouped.
- One of my concerns is that this may telegraph to patrons that it is okay to keep library materials because there is no real consequence to not returning them: There is no fine to motivate the timely return of materials. Another concern -- and this I know is a library's prerogative -- is the time and resources spent on cataloging an item with a somewhat expectation of it not being returned on time or at all, where some libraries simply let such items circulate on an "honor system."
- I like the flexibility, but I don't know how much work is involved on the back end, or whether the work might cause other issues--especially while we have so many unresolved issues with the web client already. Do other libraries have an interest in or need for this change? And I suppose it isn't my place to question it, but I keep asking myself why catalog these books if you don't care about when you get them back--why not set up a swap rack and just keep count of what gets taken and returned? That just seems easier, less work for everyone.
- Would people bother to return if there were no fines?