

Action Item 1: Institution Profile Circulation Period

History:

The Institution patron profile was implemented on February 2, 2015 with a circulation period of 30 days with no renewals.

Proposal :

Proposal submitted by Beth McIntyre, Director of the Piedmont Regional Library System:

"I'd like to propose that the new Institutional Card patron type be given a checkout period of 6 weeks instead of 30 days. Our individual patrons have 6 weeks (2 weeks, 2 renewals) if other patrons aren't waiting...would like to see that consistent. Our Outreach department can't get to each location every month, and this would help us follow PINES Policy."

Survey Results:

The following summary is based on survey results from 39 PINES Subcommittees and Directors representing 33 library systems.

Responses from Subcommittee Members:

Should the circulation period for Institution accounts change from 30 days to 6 weeks?	Responses	Percentage
Yes	18	82%
No	4	18%
Undecided	0	0%

Responses from Directors who are not Subcommittee Members:

Should the circulation period for Institution accounts change from 30 days to 6 weeks?	Responses	Percentage
Yes	14	82%
No	2	12%
Undecided	1	6%

Comments:

Comments From People Against the Change:

- I think 30 days with 1 renewal is fine and think that a 6 week period might get confusing (or 2 weeks with 2 renewals) but I will go with the majority vote.
- What if a patron is waiting for an item? Normal circulation rules would dictate the item must be returned after 2 weeks. It's not fair for that patron to have to wait longer for the item. 30 days is plenty of time for 1 check out period.

Comments From People In Favor of the Change:

- 6 weeks is more logical (the equivalent to one loan period and two renewals).
- I agree that consistency is the best practice.
- Our Bookmobile currently runs routes in 6 week rotations, so this would be extremely helpful for us.
- Since an Institution account has no renewals I would say it is fair to have the checkout time be the full 6 weeks instead of 30 days.
- That would make it more consistent with PINES policy.
- This is not a policy that affects my library at the moment, but I like the idea of a consistent checkout period.
- This seems like a fair request based on the comparison to our patron checkout limit.
- When the PINES Executive Committee talked about the loaning period, we looked at many options. It did not occur to us that our current other patrons have up to 6 weeks per item.

Comments from People Undecided on the Change:

- I can see Beth's point but that renewal option is just that -- an option. Regular patrons are not guaranteed six week check outs...why are we institutionalizing that for Institutional accounts?