

Memo

To: Network Advisory Council

From: Cara Orban, Consortia Director

Date: April 16, 2020

Re: DPLA Pilot, Internet Archive, and Digital Content Discussion

The Digital Public Library of America pilot provides libraries with the opportunity to test an app called Simply E, which can aggregate e-content resources into a single user interface. These resources may include OverDrive, content purchased directly through the DPLA, public domain content, and locally held e-content subscriptions.

A pilot group of four selectors is purchasing a small selection of materials from the DPLA Exchange to evaluate the platform's collection development functionality and to assess where this option could provide an alternative to purchasing through other vendors.

The Internet Archive also has an initiative to help provide digitized books to students and the public. Here is a blog post about this project:

<http://blog.archive.org/2020/03/24/announcing-a-national-emergency-library-to-provide-digitized-books-to-students-and-the-public/>

And from the [FAQ](#) the following information seems particularly relevant to this conversation.

I get ebooks from my public library. How is this different from OverDrive or Hoopla?

Our focus is providing online access to older books that don't have an ebook. OverDrive and Hoopla are great services and we fully support your public library and their work in making those books available to you. Those services generally have the latest bestsellers and popular titles, along with a limited backlist. Think of our collection as complementary - we have focused on acquiring and digitizing books from the 1920s-1990s that don't have an ebook available except for our scanned copy.

Questions:

- What are the most urgent needs that our current 2Go contract can't fulfill?

- Should we use one of these platforms to offer a depth of content? Can we shift people to a new platform? Would it be worthwhile?
- Is now the right time to transition users to a new app where there is one place where they can access new content as well as other collections?
- How might we proceed with patron testing?
- There is a glaring need for more content - what can we do about that?
- The Internet Archive Emergency Library could support that depth of collection that we may not be able to fulfill through OverDrive if we focus much of our donation budget on filling holds. But what should the scope of this collection be?
- Is there a way for local libraries to contribute?
- How should they do that?
- What is equitable?
- How can we maximize our investment?