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OverDrive & LGCA Shared Collection

Have questions about the project? Send them to us in our [online form](#). We will reply back to you with an answer and we will post both the question and response online.

Do you want to stay informed on the progress of this initiative? Fill out this [short form](#) with your contact information

Review questions, answers, video of the meeting and documents online at the LGCA website, www.lgca.org and click on the link for [Technology Integration and Library Support](#)

LGCA is working with OverDrive and proposing the creation of a shared collection of eBooks & audiobooks for schools affiliated with LGCA, similar in design to what CLEVNET has done with the surrounding public libraries. Each school/district that pays into the fund will have access to all the materials in the shared collection. The LGCA finance committee will be responsible for determining the final cost. For now, please consider \$1.00 per student as the amount for budget planning purposes. A meeting with OverDrive was held on January 22nd. A recording of that meeting can be found online at [Play recording](#)
<https://lgca.webex.com/lgca/ldr.php?RCID=a177c76780b75559205cae8c060b21a3>

The following are highlights from the video (length 1 hour 19 minutes).

Background: Overdrive is a digital content provider (EBooks, audiobooks and streaming videos). They are in 90% of the public libraries in US and have been providing digital content before all these mobile devices have been around (true digital library since 2003). Their company has grown up with the devices and have adapted as needed so that their solution is device agnostic.

Less cost & more access. That is the basis of this shared collection for school districts. Pooling funds from multiple schools to develop one large collection of digital content to be shared. Schools will still have the opportunity to build their own collection that only their students have access to.

Shared collection model: All participating schools connect to one central platform. By having two or more schools involved and sharing it makes it more cost effective than if you were on your own. Greater access to more resources because you are pooling your financial resources and are able to purchase more materials at a lower cost per student. OverDrive can setup filters by grade to ensure titles reach the right students. Typical model is to create an elementary collection, middle school collection and a high school collection. Each district determines which grades belong to each collection group. Districts have the ability to add titles specific to your school or district – separate from the shared collection. Only your students can access these titles.

Selection of materials for shared collection: Overdrive has librarians on staff for the selection of materials for the shared collection. District staff (librarians, administrators, etc) can offer suggestions and make requests for the shared collection and they would be responsible for the selection of materials for their district specific collections. LGCA can create a committee for each level to manage suggestions for the shared collection.

100% of funds paid into the shared collection goes into buying books. There is not an administrative or platform fee. Every dollar is being used to buy books. For the first year, majority of the money will be used to build the initial collection. Some funds will be reserved for the rest of the year for purchase of popular and new titles.

Device agnostic: resources are able to be used on nearly every type of device, student or school owned. Can be used online as well as offline.

QUESTION Since these are electronic files, can multiple students read the same book at the same time? No, they are treated just like a physical book. If you have one copy then you can only have one user at a time. If you need a classroom set then you need to purchase as many as you will need at one time.

QUESTION Do you have books that are unlimited? Yes, there are open resource books that are unlimited. There are some publishers that allow unlimited access.

QUESTION I have heard that you need to repurchase eBooks: There are some publishers that say after an eBook has checked out 26 of times it needs to be repurchased or it has to be repurchased based on time limit (3 years or 5 years). Typically these are the larger more popular publishers. If ebook checks out 26 times, that is enough for a full year if checked out for a two week lending period. These are referred to as Metered checkouts.

Overdrive Read and Overdrive listen: Browser based tools. No software needed. Able to sync across devices. Personalized settings that you can setup. Includes a dyslexic font that can be used. Increases readability for readers with dyslexia. Bookmark, take notes and share notes or answer questions to teacher. History and notes tab: Reading history shows how many minutes/pages user has read. Notes and highlights is history of their reading remain with student account. Have access to even if they no longer have the book checked out.

QUESTION Are notes and highlights private to the student? Yes. Student would have to share/show the teacher the info. Teacher cannot pull the information out. Student is able to export highlights and notes. Export options include exporting to Google Drive, PDF, Copy to clipboard and CSV.

QUESTION Can a student delete information in their notes and history: Don't know. Never been asked. Will have to check on and report back.

For student 13 and under no email address is requested or housed at Overdrive. The student will have to log into the overdrive account to retrieve holds. If student is 13 and over, when they place a hold, if they are over 13, the system will ask for an email so it can notify user when hold is available.

Not all schools in a District have to participate in the shared collection. Majority of the schools Overdrive have are Middle and High school because there are so many other products for elementary schools. When not all schools in a district participate, Overdrive makes sure that funds collected from High Schools are used to purchase High School materials in the shared collection. Their collection balance is 60% fiction and 40% nonfiction materials. In the beginning concentration will be on building the collection and not filling recommendations by teachers and students.

OverDrive Marketplace: This is where district staff can purchase materials and see reports for their district. District purchased materials are mixed in with the rest of the collection. Students can't tell which one is part of the shared collection and which are specific to their district.

QUESTION How long does it take for an ebook to be available after purchase? Usually 2 to 4 hours.

QUESTION How do they access the ebooks? Students and staff will log into the website. Recommend using username/password already known like using their student ID number. OverDrive has the ability to get student information from the school library system LGCA Sirsi WorkFlows. If school library is not automated with LGCA Sirsi WorkFlows OverDrive has a library card manager portal available.

QUESTION: Are usage statistics available? Yes, OverDrive staff librarians create monthly email with district circulation, how many books/audios were added that month. District has access to this information through their admin OverDrive account.

QUESTION How much does it cost? It depends on how many participate. Details that LGCA needs to work on, based on how many schools and districts are involved. With LGCA handling the billing the cost will be significantly lower than if OverDrive does the billing. With enough participation, we would like to get the price down to \$.40 to \$.50 per student.

QUESTION How many books can we buy in with the shared digital library? Depends on the number of districts and students and what the per student fee is. Price of ebooks is \$15-20 per book on average. Books for the elementary population are cheaper than books for high school students.

QUESTION What formats and how do we decide how many of each? Collection balance is recommended 1 audio book for every 5 ebooks. Not necessarily the case when we first start out. First year will be ebook heavy to build up the collection. Audiobooks are typically about twice the price of an ebook. Newer titles are more expensive.

QUESTION How do you know what to buy? With Overdrive Staff librarian doing the ordering, they will do an initial survey out to all the school. If entire school district, then they make sure that schools funds are allocated for Elementary, Middle and High school materials. If only High School, then they allocated that schools funds into the High School materials budget. Funding based on grade level of participating members students. Collection development for shared collection starts with purchase of most recent/popular titles. Example: Maybe in a series the most recent books is #10. Shared collection would start with purchase of book#10 and if it is popular, start working backwards in the series to purchase #9, #8, etc. Concentration is on recent titles

QUESTION Do you have Textbooks: not something OverDrive has or is currently pursuing. There are a handful of companies that they work with. But many of the textbook publishers already have their own platform for delivering textbooks.

QUESTION Will the cost for the service change based on school participation? If schools drop out will our fee be raised? No, we won't change the cost based on who is in or out of the project. We still have the books that were bought with the shared money. If a district leaves the shared collection, they only take with them the books that they bought for their student and staff (they own the licenses for those titles). Participation will drive the cost, initially. But there are no plans to adjust the price as schools enter/leave the

shared model. The amount of money collected is the amount of money available to purchase materials. If schools want to increase the amount of materials being purchased then more funds will be needed.

QUESTION What is the biggest concern as perceived by schools: Not enough books. If you have small number of schools at launch, then your purchasing power is limited. But as more schools come into the program you have more funds to purchase even more books. These are books on top of their current collection. 50% participation would make it well worth the effort and investment.

QUESTION Is there a discount with more schools involved: No, you're not getting a discount, you just have more schools to spread out the cost.

QUESTION Can individual schools can buy into the shared collection? Yes, we are working with LGCA to try and get entire districts involved. OverDrive & LGCA are going to customize this to meet your needs and your students.

As ebooks and audios become more mainstream in K-12 schools. This service may be a way for schools to transition to having their own collection and may no longer need to be part of a shared collection.