

November 6, 2006

To: CARLI Governing Board

From: David Carlson, Chair
CARLI Product and Services Vetting Committee

Re: HarpWeek, 1890-1912

As a result of a recommendation by the EResources Working Group (ERWG), the Product and Services Vetting Committee recommends to the Board that CARLI pursue and implement a purchase for online access to the full text of *Harper's Weekly* (HarpWeek) for the years 1890-1912. We recommend that these years be available for CARLI member libraries only.

The following factors make up our rationale for this recommendation:

- **Cost.**

The vendor has quoted a price of \$148,500 for these years of full-text access. The ERWG reports that this quotation has been reduced by \$29,700 from a previous quotation. Also according to the ERWG, this cost represents approximately three percent of the aggregate cost of institutional purchase. For these reasons, we believe this represents a highly cost-effective consortial purchase for the membership. Additionally, this purchase is a one-time commitment that fits well with current CARLI fiscal resources.
- **Key Benefits.**

As part of the previous IDAL program, CARLI provides HarpWeek access for the years 1857 to 1889. Over the last academic year, these years of HarpWeek were used on 75 CARLI campuses and had 179,000 page downloads. Clearly, HarpWeek is of significant interest and research value; the database will be even more valuable and useful with these additional years of full text.
- **Ease of Integration.**

Access to the database is by standard browser so the effort to integrate the product into existing services would be minimal. We are advised that it would not be problematic for the vendor to discriminate years of access by CARLI members to these later years while non-members would continue to have access to the older IDAL-purchased years only. We believe this is a useful and appropriate benefit and distinction for CARLI member libraries.
- **Disadvantages.**

The Committee is not aware of any disadvantages to this recommendation other than its cost. However, as we have noted, the cost is highly cost-effective and as a one-time purchase is a good fit with the current parameters of CARLI resources.

Thank you.