
**2016–2017 CARLI Commercial Products Committee:
Annual Report of Activities**

Members

Chad Buckley, Illinois State University, Chair
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CARLI Staff Liaisons: Mary Burkee and Cindy Clennon

Highlights of Activity

Electronic Resource Proposal Evaluations

The CPC received ten proposals in FY17. Of those proposals, six were rejected, one was withdrawn by the vendor and three are still under discussion. FY17 has been another challenging year for proposal review as libraries have continued to struggle with budgetary issues. These issues impacted the review of potential new products as the likelihood of libraries adding products was an important consideration of even potentially interesting products.

The decline in proposals is also related to the maturation of the marketplace, which has resulted in many of the major products available have been offered to the libraries already and vendors are less motivated to make discounted offers to remaining libraries. To address this in the future the committee may need to devote more energy to emerging products, which could include reaching out to vendors about possible consortial offerings.

Updating of the Web Form for Proposal Submission

The current procurement climate seriously impacts our ability to negotiate new agreements for non-sole source products as this would require an RFP, which is a very time and labor-intensive process. As a direct result the online submission form for proposals needed updating to limit proposal submissions to sole source products only. The committee members reviewed and advised on the new language for the proposal form, which has been updated and is available on the CARLI web site at <https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/eres/propose>.

Annual Project

With its beginnings in discussions on conference calls about the necessity for making budget cuts, the Commercial Products embarked on an ambitious process of codifying how each member library has approach these collection decisions. Of the nine libraries represented on the committee eight have undertaken significant collection budget cutting exercises and these approaches are documented in the report. These reports were anonymized in hopes that this could serve as a blueprint or provide best practices for other libraries considering collection budget cuts.

CARLI Selection System

Following the full deployment of the new selection system the Commercial Products Committee continued to provide input and suggestions for modifications to the system. This library perspective on

the use and design of the system has been valuable to the on-going work of CARLI staff on system modifications.

Usage Statistics Webinar

Continuing the efforts started in FY15, Gale presented a webinar on their usage statistics module on September 29, 2016. The slides and presentation are archived along with other presentation materials on the Usage Statistics for Electronic Resources page on the CARLI web site.

Future Activities

In addition to the annual project, during the year the committee discussed:

- possible survey of members about various products (PNAS, Tableau, Simply Map, Kanopy)
- possible consideration of software as a service, one such product is LibGuides
- additional usage statistics webinars – possibly focusing on library presentations about tools they are using and how the statistics are utilized