

Summary of the SCIDs idea and process

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As far as I know, SCIDs began while Peter Hamon was SCLS Director. SCID stands for “South Central In Demand.” The idea behind SCIDs was that the System would contribute funds to help purchase more copies of popular titles.

A formula was set up to determine how many copies of any title would be purchased. This was based on the number of holds and the format. Through the years, the formula has been adjusted as formats became less popular or as new formats emerged. For example, SCID money is no longer used for books-on-cassette. For 2012, 2.75% of SCID money will go toward SCLS’s contribution to the statewide digital media purchasing pool for ebooks. The SCLS Public Library Advisory Committee (PLAC) was the body that officially monitored the SCID budget; now this is done by the Administrative Council.

Each year, the System gives money to Madison Public Library (this is part of the “resource library contract”) to use to purchase In Demand items to be shared by all SCLS ILS member libraries. In 2011, the amount was \$77,565. The money is actually divided into several different accounts. Most of the money is used to buy copies to fill holds for popular print and AV titles – what we typically refer to as “SCIDs.” A smaller category is called “SCILL” – South Central Interlibrary Loan. These items are purchased to fill a need in a subject area – not necessarily copies of a specific title. Often this need is identified by OLL staff as they track requests. Other small categories of items are “PPC” and “SPEC.” PPC money is used to purchase DVDs with public performance rights for use in programs. SPEC money is for the “special needs” collection. Shawn Brommer helps MPL determine the “special needs” areas. In the past we have purchased Braille copies of children’s titles, or juvenile items in other languages.

On Dynix, MPL staff received “Purchase Alert” reports that showed the number of copies and number of holds for popular titles. We have just started getting these reports on Koha. Using these reports, MPL staff selects, orders, links, and processes SCID items. They are linked with “SCID” collection codes and the shelving location is “Ask staff for help.” Once there are no more holds on a title, the SCID copies return to MAD. MPL keeps some copies and distributes the rest to the county resource libraries.

SCLS ILS member libraries also agree to adhere to “member purchasing” obligations. The policy states, “member libraries are required to purchase sufficient copies of material to meet local demand.” See http://automation.scls.lib.wi.us/policy/Sec2/Sec2_index.htm for the “Member Purchasing Responsibility” policy. It was adopted in 1998 and amended in 2005.

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