Resolutions—Southern Conference

May 2023

1. The Southern Conference expresses a hearty Thank You to outgoing President Maureen Dorosinski, her staff at the Florida Regional Library, and the planning committee for arranging and conducting a successful conference. It was a wonderful return to meeting in person.
2. We wish all the best to Craig Hayward as he begins a new phase in his career. Craig has served as President and Member-at-Large on the Southern Conference Executive Board and has served on the NLS RTAG Committee. His friendship, advice, and participation in the network will be missed.
3. Because *Talking Book Topics* is no longer available to patrons in large print, patrons and staff more than ever rely upon automatic book selection based on local subject headings. Local subject headings are assigned because Library of Congress subject headings are too narrow and current NLS Broad Descriptors are too broad. While it is a good thing NLS is increasing the number of new titles, network libraries cannot sustain current cataloging practices to assign local subject headings to every new book. Therefore, the Southern Conference strongly urges NLS to expand its list of Broad Descriptors or develop a new system of subject headings similar to those in use by network libraries. This would reduce or eliminate duplication of effort at every library, make new books available to patrons more quickly, and help with patron retention.
4. Network libraries who produce braille or talking books know best what the book is about. Therefore, the Southern Conference requests that NLS develop a way to include subject headings assigned by the producing library in the NLS catalog, BARD description, and in records imported into KLAS and WebReads.
5. The Southern Confernce suggests that NLS create a new patron type for patrons in correctional institutions. Currently there is not a field in the patron record to identity patrons who are inmates. These patrons, or the institutions, sometimes have different requirements than typical patrons. Having an inmate patron type would allow libraries to run a report and create a list of all patrons who are inmates and could be sorted by institution address.
6. Traditional mail service patrons often find new authors and books they enjoy from the titles automatically selected for them. BARD patrons must search for and select their own titles, and some have a difficult time doing so. We request that NLS link BARD with WebReads and KLAS so librarians can run autoselects based on a patron’s reading interests and push them to the patron’s BARD Wish List. These requests would be noted as autoselects to differentiate them from patron additions to the Wish List. The patron would then have a tailored selection of titles from which to choose for downloading. This would support the BARD First initiative by providing the same book selection service as mail patrons receive.
7. MOC on DoD will require libraries to use more blank cartridges to distribute both books and magazines. While existing NLS cartridges can be repurposed, network libraries must relabel them for DoD use. This cartridge label stock is unique to our service and is not widely available from commercial vendors. Many network libraries do not have the equipment to produce their own print/braille labels, or do not have the budget to purchase them. Therefore, the Southern Conference asks NLS to use funds currently paid to MOC producers to instead provide custom print/braille cartridge labels to each network library.
8. Members of the Southern Confernce want to thank NLS for the following communication and training programs that foster information sharing opportunities for network library staff and patrons.
   1. Pop-up trainings
   2. Reader Advisor Monthly Meet-up
   3. Professional Development Series
   4. Collections Development email list
   5. Patron Engagement email list
   6. Many Faces of BARD
   7. Patron Corner
9. The Southern Conference congratulates NLS on the success of the Braille on Demand program! We would like a similar program for network libraries to request replacements for lost or damaged braille volumes. Even though the quality may not match that of the regular braille collection, it is better than not having a title available.
10. We in the Southern Confernce are excited for the MOC program to be integrated into DoD circulation. This will allow patrons to receive both magazines and books from their network library, will eliminate returning items to the wrong location, will allow libraries to use smaller cartridges for magazine circulation, and may reduce magazine overdues.
11. Libraries in the Southern Conference wish to thank NLS for developing a Summer Reading program for both youth and adults. We hope there is sufficient interest and attendance to make this an annual program, since many libraries do not have dedicated youth or programming staff to develop their own SRP.