**Rating Unrated Books – RUB – Joining the process – 2017-01**

Since we still don’t have the backend process of sharing ratings in place, I feel that we have moved into the Alpha phase of this project. Once automation is complete for libraries then we can move into Beta for testing that and then into “production mode”.

Here are the current states participating: CA, CO, ID, IL, FL, GA, ME, MI, MT, NC, NM, OR, SC, SD, TX, UT

I, Debbi MacLeod, have created a listserv for the RUB team and if you want to be on it, let me know the names and email addresses. This list is not limited but it is not open – I need to subscribe folks. It makes communication between relevant parties easier. Also on the list are James & Mitake from Keystone and Mary Lamica from CULS.

All of our documents have been posted to the Wiki so you can find items there.

<https://lbphwiki.aadl.org/rating_unrated_books>

Here is the process as it stands now:

Request books from Sue Walker, ID – she is keeping the spreadsheet part of the RUB workbook and has current unrated lists of fiction, non-fiction and YA. If you want different books then you can trade directly with other states. We want to limit requests to these 3 categories to make life simpler for Sue.

Once you have the books rated, you can put the ratings into your own catalog. For KLAS libraries don’t forget to take unrated out of the abstract and the subject codes and add “commercial audio” in the subject code field.

Please find the document titled: Rating Reporting Template 2017-01 on the wiki. You complete this for the books you have completed and send to: Jennifer Ronsen jronsen@tsl.texas.gov and Laura Moore lmoore@tsl.texas.gov in Texas. They will be updating the ratings part of the RUB workbook and posting this weekly on the Wiki. They notify both the RUB list and LBPH list when it is posted.

Texas uses a different rating scheme which you will see noted on the spreadsheet – columns F, G, H. The NLS rating rubric you will see in column I. The catagories translate thusly:

Level of **Sex**: N – no exclusion; S - some descriptions of sex, & descriptions of sex; H - some explicit descriptions of sex & explicit descriptions of sex

Level of **Profanity**: N - no exclusion; S - Some strong language; H - Strong language

Level of **Violence:** N – no exclusion; S - some violence; H - Violence

On occasion you will see that more than one library has rated a book. In this case both are listed. In some cases you will see the ratings don’t match. You can decide which rating to use for your patrons. As rating is a bit of an art, we leave it up to local discretion.

You can then use the RUB workbook to discover new ratings for you to update your catalogs with everyone else’s ratings. Until this part of the process is automated, we will just have to all do the same work of getting the rating into our catalogs.

There are training materials on the wiki. Different states are using different methods to rate books. In CO I have a team of 10 volunteers and they are rating about 20 books/mth. Many of them work in the studio and rate the books that they record so are well versed in the methods. If you use, tweak or develop new documents, please share them by posting them on the wiki.

I think that is it. Anyone can join; you can rate as many books as you can manage. If that is one a month or one a week, any effort helps. Remember we have 1,000 books a year we need to rate.

Debbi MacLeod, revised 1-6-17