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The OWWL Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, April 23. One item on the agenda was the review of comments received from users and solicited from library directors regarding the impact of the newly implemented age protect feature. Designed to allow local users first access to materials purchased by their home library, new items will not automatically fill holds outside of the local library for a period of 60 days.

Two Pioneer staff and 6 member library directors were present at the Advisory Committee meeting. Directors had contacted the libraries they represent for feedback, and the discussion centered on these comments:

- Many reported that their users were pleased to have more new materials on the shelf for browsing
- Some reported an increase of local circulation of new materials
- Some users complained that holds on materials owned in other libraries were not being received as fast
- Some users at the larger libraries complained that their holds were not being filled as fast
- Many reported that staff and users saw no difference in the flow of materials
- Some felt that age protect allowed local demand to build on "sleeper items" whose popularity was not immediately perceived
- There was mixed opinion about whether age protect was contrary to the spirit of sharing, with some feeling everything should be open to everyone, and others feeling that local users should have first chance at materials purchased with local funds. It was mentioned that the restriction on filling holds from other libraries was only for the equivalent of 3 checkouts.

Part of the initial decision to implement age protect at the system level was that it be optional, and be reviewed after six months. The committee recommended going forward with the six-month review plan, and that libraries

- Selectively apply age protect to anticipated high local demand items
- Where staffing allowed, use the no local demand report to remove age protect from items that have system level holds but no local activity
- Continue to gather user feedback and data on the impact of age protection