CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 4

MEETING DATE: Thursday, July 28, 2011
AGENDA ITEM #: 10
ITEM: REPORT FROM COUNTY LIBRARIAN

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
• None
Articles & Databases

This collection of premium online resources is selected and provided by the Contra Costa County Library. Many of these resources are not found on the web and only available to Library card holders.

Elementary School/ Kids Search

80+ full-text elementary school magazines
Includes the following:
- Encyclopedia of Animals, Funk & Wagnalls New World
- Encyclopedia, American Heritage
- Children's Dictionary and an Image Collection.

Middle, High School/ Student Research Center

140+ full-text middle school magazines, 500+ full-text high school magazines and expanded full-text backfiles (to 1975) for key magazines.
Includes
- Biographies and Historical Essays,
- Primary Source Documents,
- Reference books and an Image Collection of photos, maps and flags.

Social Studies Fact Cards

Quick reference for students in grades 4-8 on topics included in the social studies curriculum in California. Full-text content of Contra Costa County local papers.

Contra Costa Times/ U.S. & World News

Full-text content of Contra Costa County local papers. The Library is conducting a year-long trial of NewsBank's Research Collection featuring thousands of U.S. and global news articles and databases.
Beginning July 1, 2011, the Library will no longer be subscribing to Brainfuse homework help, NextReads newsletters, and Gale databases.

In an effort to continue to support patrons in these areas, the Library has been able to work with EBSCO to prepare a very attractive and affordable database package perfectly suited to this public library's core pursuits in support of reading and life-long learning for kids, teens and adults. The package focuses on popular, full-text magazines and content appropriate for elementary, middle and high school students as well as general interest reading for teens and adults. Many popular titles are unique to this vendor and are not part of other database vendor packages. Content is separated into databases for elementary, middle and high school students, providing resources in an age-appropriate context. Popular databases for opposing viewpoints and literary reference are also included. With full-text content specifically tailored to meet the needs of this public library's core audiences, and with less focus on academic publications and citations, this package ideally suits the Library's objectives and County residents' objectives, and at a price point that is manageable, given current budget reductions – a full 70% less than current vendor pricing, locked in for 3 years.

The package includes:

- **Points of View Reference Center**
  Designed to provide students with a series of essays that present multiple sides of a current issue. The database provides more than 280 topics, each with an overview (objective background/description), point (argument), counterpoint (opposing argument), and Critical Thinking Guide.

- **Literary Reference Center**
  This full-text database provides users with a broad spectrum of information on thousands of authors and their works across literary disciplines and timeframes. It has been specifically designed for public libraries, secondary schools, junior/community colleges and undergraduate research.

- **MAS Ultra - High School Edition**
  Contains full text for nearly 500 popular high school magazines including America's Civil War, American Heritage, American History, Archaeology, Astronomy, Bioscience, Civil War Times, Congressional Digest, Discover, History Today, Nation, National Review, New Republic, New Scientist, Popular Science, Science News, Scientific American, Smithsonian, and World War II. All full-text articles are assigned a reading level indicator (Lexiles). Full text is also available for 85,670 biographies, 107,000 primary source documents and includes more than 360 reference books (including the Columbia Encyclopedia, the CIA World Fact Book and World Almanac & Book of Facts); an Image Collection of over 592,000 photos, maps & flags, color PDFs; and expanded full-text backfiles (back to 1975) for key magazines.

- **Middle Search Plus**
  Contains full text for more than 140 popular middle school magazines. All full-text articles are assigned a reading level indicator (Lexiles). Full text is also available for thousands of biographies and historical essays. Additionally, Middle Search Plus contains primary source documents including Essential Documents in American History, reference books including the Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia; American Heritage Dictionary, Encyclopedia of Animals and an Image Collection of 440,207 photos, maps and flags.

- **Primary Search**
  Contains full text for more than 80 popular elementary school magazines. All full-text articles are assigned a reading level indicator (Lexiles). Includes the Encyclopedia of Animals, Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia, which provides students with easy-to-read encyclopedic entries written specifically for kids, American Heritage Children's Dictionary and an Image Collection.

- **Newspaper Source**
  Provides cover-to-cover full text for more than 40 national and international newspapers, including Christian Science Monitor, USA Today, The Washington Post, The Washington Times, The Times (London), and Toronto Star. Includes selective full text for more than 330 regional U.S. newspapers and full-text television & radio news transcripts.

Staff will be notified when these resources are available online.

The Library is continuing subscriptions to NewsBank (Contra Costa Times, national and international newspapers); Overdrives eBooks and audiobooks; Social Studies Fact Cards; Gale Virtual Reference Library; Documents Without Shelves (Government docs); Tumblebooks; BookFLIX; LibAnswers (Answer-Me-This); and LibGuides (Subject Guides).

In place of NextReads, the Library will be subscribing to an email newsletter service that will allow us to create newsletters and reading recommendations for former NextReads subscribers.
June 6, 2011

Barbara L. Flynn  
County Librarian  
Contra Costa County  
1750 Oak Park Blvd  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION

Dear Barbara:

Pursuant to your request and the action of the Library Commission, the Mayors’ Conference on June 2 approved a five year extension of the Library Commission.

The action of the Conference was unanimous. This is testament to the excellent work the cities and the county have done over the past 20 plus years to bring decent library service to all residents of the County.

We all can be proud of what we have accomplished. There is more to do, and we will continue to grow and prosper through this fine working relationship. Thanks to you for all your good works in leading the effort.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

DONALD A. BLUBAUGH  
Executive Director

1715 Chardonnay Lane • Brentwood, CA 94513  
(925) 324-0723  Email: don@ccmayors.com
To: Board of Supervisors

From: Barbara Flynn, County Librarian

Date: May 6, 2011

Subject: Reauthorization of the County Library Commission for five years July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2016

RECOMMENDATION(S):

AUTHORIZE continuation of the Contra Costa County Library Commission for five years for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016, as recommended by the Librarian.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact.

BACKGROUND:

At the Library Commission’s July 22, 2010 meeting, the Commissioners voted to request that the Library Commission be reauthorized for five more years. The Library Commission was established twenty years ago on March 12, 1991, was originally established for a two-year period, and was reauthorized annually. On July 17, 2001 the Board of Supervisors reauthorized the Library Commission for five years, through June 30, 2006 and then for another five years on May 2, 2006. The reauthorization process requires the concurrence of the Board of Supervisors and the Mayors’ Conference followed by each jurisdiction or organization following its own procedure for making appointments.

Since its creation twenty years ago, the Library Commission has well carried out its primary purposes by:

☑ APPROVE
☐ OTHER

☑ RECOMMENDATION OF CNTY ADMINISTRATOR
☐ RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD COMMITTEE

Action of Board On: 05/24/2011 ☑ APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED ☐ OTHER

Clerks Notes:

VOTE OF SUPERVISORS

AYES 5  NOES 
ABSENT ABSTAIN
RECUSE

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: May 24, 2011

David J. Twa, County Administrator
and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: KATHERINE SINCLAIR, Deputy
BACKGROUND: (CONT'D)

- Providing a community linkage to the County Library by exchanging and providing information about the library to a variety of community organizations
- Providing a forum for the community to express its views regarding the goals and operations of the County Library
- Providing a link between the cities and towns and the County and Library Administration through the appointees from the cities and towns
- Keeping the Board of Supervisors informed about library needs and community expectations for the Library
- Participating and providing leadership in all efforts to insure a stable and adequate funding level for the libraries in the County
- Improving the public's understanding of library services and providing Library Administration with a better understanding of the public's needs

The Commissioners concluded that it is in the public's best interest to have a Library Commission and that the members of the Commission can offer increased stability by extending the term of the Commission. Individual appointments to the Commission will continue to be two years, with no limit to the number of consecutive terms.


Contained within the original March 15, 1991 Board Order creating the Commission is the process whereby the Library Commission can be continued for additional periods of time:

"...the Commission ...may be continued for additional periods of time, with the approval of the Mayors' Conference and the Board of Supervisors."


At the same time the Mayors' Conference approved the continuation of the Library Commission for a two-year term until March 14, 1995.

On January 25, 1994 the Board of Supervisors extended the County Library Commission for one year until March 14, 1995.


1998 - 1999 At its meeting on June 18, 1998 the Contra Costa County Library Commission requested that the Board of Supervisors and the Mayors' Conference reauthorize the Commission for a one-year period from July 1, 1998 through June 30, 1999. At its meeting on September 3, 1998 the Contra Costa Mayors' Conference reauthorized the County Library Commission for the same period of time.


2001 - 2006 On July 17, 2001 the Board of Supervisors reauthorized the Contra Costa County Library Commission for five years from the period July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2006 and the Mayors' Conference concurred in the reauthorization on September 6, 2001.

2006 - 2011 On May 2, 2006 the Board of Supervisors reauthorized the Contra Costa County Library Commission for five years from the period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2011 and the Mayors' Conference concurred in the reauthorization on June 1, 2006.

CONSEQUENCE OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

The Library Commission will no longer be authorized and will be unable to conduct business.

CHILDREN'S IMPACT STATEMENT: