

CHAPEL HILL/ORANGE COUNTY LIBRARY FUNDING & INTEROPERABILITY

Task Force Report & Recommendations

Chapel Hill Town Council
April 19, 2023

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BACKGROUND & MEETINGS

FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

INTEROPERABILITY RECOMMENDATION

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BACKGROUND & MEETINGS

- In April 2021, Commissioner Bedford petitioned to examine interoperability
- In May 2021, Library Board petitioned Council to study county funding
- In October 2021, Commission and Council jointly approved creation of task force
- Eight meetings from Jan 2022 – Feb 2023, facilitated by Maggie Chotas
- Agreed to work on issues of funding and interoperability separately by examining data, asking questions, gathering answers, seeking consensus

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FUNDING RATIONALE

1. Because the Town of Chapel Hill provides library services for the approximately 61,000 County residents who live in Chapel Hill
2. So that County residents who do not live in Chapel Hill can have a CHPL account without paying an out-of-jurisdiction fee

**FUNDING
FORMULA
INTERESTS**

THOUGHTFUL - All aspects of library services should be considered and valued, not just circulation and cardholders.

EQUITABLE - Orange County should strive to provide equal funding to all County residents, regardless of where they live within the County.

SUSTAINABLE - Any formula should be calculated on an annual basis and be “future-proof” - should populations shift or library services change.

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**“ACCESS”
MODEL
(aka Service
Provider
Model)**

- A known percentage of County residents live within the Town
- The Town is the primary provider of library services for those County residents
- $[Total\ County\ funding\ for\ Orange\ County\ Library\ operating\ expenses] \times [Percent\ of\ Orange\ County\ residents\ living\ with\ Town\ jurisdiction] = Annual\ County\ Funding\ to\ Town\ of\ Chapel\ Hill$

FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

- MOU using the “Access/Service Provider” model as the funding formula
- Be in effect for at least six years (FY 2024 – 2029)
- Incorporate a phased approach that will incrementally increase funding

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**INTER
OPERABILITY
INTERESTS**

- Yield operational cost savings
- Create benefit to library users
- Equal burden/benefit to both systems

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**INTER
OPERABILITY
FINDINGS**

- No other NC county/municipal libraries are interoperable
- Shared ILS would not yield cost savings
- No identified benefit to library users for either system

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INTEROPERABILITY RECOMMENDATION

- Do not pursue formal efforts toward increased library system interoperability
- Continue staff communication & collaboration
- Discuss opportunities for complimentary services
- Consider joint promotional campaign for library services
- Consider periodic report to BOCC and Council about library services

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STAFF RECOMMENDATION

- Receive the Library Task Force Final Report
- Declare the work of the Task Force complete
- Authorize the Manager to pursue a library funding agreement with Orange County

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