

Fine “ownership” and lending library rules

MORE Directors Council discussion

March 2018

Waiving considerations

- Currently, libraries are free to follow local policy in waiving fines accrued on items they own
- Fines accrued on items owned by other libraries may not be waived without the owning libraries’ permission
- After the switch to lending library rules, fines will accrue according to the lending library’s rules, not the owning library’s
- Sierra does not show what lending library applied a fine, but will still display the owning location
- Will it still make sense to allow libraries to waive fines on items they own only? Or should all libraries be free to follow local policy in waiving fines accrued on any libraries’ items?

Executive Committee recommendation, March 2: Norris (HU) recommended that the libraries be free to follow local policy in waiving fines on any library’s items. Noack (CA) seconded. Motion carried.

Ecommerce considerations

- Currently, online fine and replacement payments are disbursed to the library that owns the item on which the paid fine or replacement charge accrued
- After the switch to lending library rules, fines will accrue according to the lending library’s rules, not the owning library’s
- After the switch, it will be technically possible, but not straightforward, to disburse fines to the library that assessed the fine, and continue to disburse replacement fees to owning libraries
- Will it still make sense to disburse all funds to owning libraries, or should payments be disbursed differently?

Executive Committee recommendation, March 2: Noack (CA) motioned that the MORE Executive Committee recommends that fines on Ecommerce collected for fines-free libraries be utilized for the High Demands Hold project. Norris (HU) seconded. Motion carried.

Note: if the Executive Committee’s recommendation is passed:

- MORE will continue to disburse all funds collected via ecommerce to those libraries that charge fines on items they circulate.
- For libraries that do not charge fines on items they circulate, MORE will disburse replacement fees only for the prior year by mid-December. Fines that have accrued on those libraries’ materials will be applied to MORE’s High-Demand Holds project.