

Council Meeting of
August 28, 2012

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Community Services – Approve purchase of Novelist Select for the Library online catalog system. Expenditure: \$7,160.38.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that the City Council approve the purchase of a subscription to Novelist Select from EBSCO Publishing for an amount of \$7,160.38 to provide electronic content services for the Library online catalog system for a term ending June 30, 2013. This is a change order to the current PO 2013-002 for a new total amount not to exceed \$45,286.38.

FUNDING

Funding is available in the Library's Electronic Materials budget.

BACKGROUND

The Torrance Public Library provides enhanced material for the online catalog through a third party vendor. This includes book cover images, professional reviews, and plot summaries. These enhancements help readers select materials using the catalog. The service must work with our specific online catalog provider, SIRSI/Dynix.

Previously, this service has been sole source. In 2012, a new vendor came on the market to provide an equivalent service – Novelist Select. This is a product from the same vendor as our stand-alone database Novelist, which is very popular with readers. After expiration of our existing subscription in July 2012, we arranged for a free trial of the new vendor.

ANALYSIS

In six weeks of free trial, public and staff response has been positive to this new product. The cover images and professional reviews are still provided, and Novelist Select also links readers to the social networking site GoodReads along with content provided within the stand-alone Novelist database.

In Fiscal Year 2011-12, the Library paid \$20,218.60 for the previous subscription. This new vendor provides an equivalent service for \$7,160.38, a substantial savings to the Library's electronic materials budget.

We currently purchase subscriptions from the same vendor for three other electronic products – our full-text magazine index, auto repair center, and the Novelist database. The addition of this product will bring the total with EBSCO Publishing from \$38,126 to \$45,286.38 for Fiscal Year 2012-13

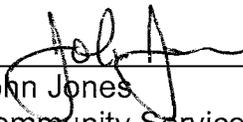
Due to the substantial savings for this service, and positive response to the free trial, it is the recommendation of the Community Services Director that the City Council approve the purchase of a subscription to Novelist Select for an amount of \$7,160.38.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN JONES
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

By 
Hillary Theyer
City Librarian

CONCUR:



John Jones
Community Services Director



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager