

Council Meeting of
June 26, 2007

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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Community Services/Library Division - Purchase of Three Electronic Databases

Expenditure: \$32,935

RECOMMENDATION

The Acting Community Services Director recommends that the City Council approve the sole source purchase of three electronic databases (EBSCO Host, NoveList, and Auto Repair Reference Center) from EBSCO, Inc., for \$32,935.

Funding

Funding is available in the Library Division operating budget for fiscal year 2007-2008.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Library Division has carefully selected a number of commercial databases for use by its patrons. Where at all possible, they have been licensed for use within the Library, as well as from an individual's home and place of business.

In the past, the full-text magazine index, reader's advisory database, and auto repair database have been provided by EBSCO, Inc. Their full-text magazine database contains over 1,000 magazines with a total of over 3,000 actual magazines indexed. The Auto Repair Reference Center contains information from Chilton's auto repair manuals covering the period 1954 to the present, and the NoveList database contains recommended reading suggestions for fiction. These databases feature the best combination of ease of use and critical content.

The Library wishes to use EBSCO as a sole source for its general and magazine electronic database (EBSCO Host), its reader's advisory tool (NoveList), and the Auto Repair Reference Center. As mentioned, EBSCO has many full-text titles that are not available in other electronic databases. The Library evaluated other companies' databases and found they provided less content and more difficult software interfaces for public use. In the most recent evaluation of pricing, EBSCO was also the least expensive

for the amount of material provided. All EBSCO databases are available from within the Library, as well as from home and work.

The Torrance Municipal Code, Section 22.3.17 **Exceptions; sole-source purchases**, states:

“(a) The provisions of this Article shall not apply to purchases of sole-source services or property, which purchases shall be made in accordance with such procedures and regulations as shall be established by the City Manager.

(b) For purposes of this Section, “sole-source purchases” shall mean those purchases where it would be undesirable or impossible for the City to advertise for bids for particular work or for patented items, or experimental or unique services or products, or where competitive purchases would be unavailable or would not prove advantageous for the City. No sole-source purchases shall be made where to do so would show favoritism, improvidence, extravagance, fraud or corruption, or result in the waste of public funds, but shall be used only to obtain the best economic result for the public.”

Respectfully submitted,

PAULA J. WEINER
ACTING COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

By 
Norm Reeder
Library Services Manager

CONCUR:


Paula J. Weiner
Acting Community Services Director


LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager