

MINITEX / MnLINK Interlibrary Loan Committee

Statement on MnLINK Gateway Enhancement Allowing Staff Review of Requests Based on Date of Publication and Cost of Requested Items.

The Committee suggests a date of publication within the past 12 months and a purchase price of \$10 (or less) as starting points for a discussion of the review criteria. The committee recognizes that varying local collection development policies and staffing issues may result in different server sites using different criteria. The Committee further suggests that staff review of requests meeting the criteria focus on improved collection development and the development of purchase-on-demand mechanisms to improve customer service and control interlibrary loan request volume.

The Committee has identified several potential consequences of implementing staff review of requests meeting the review criteria:

- the need to devote additional staff time to reviewing requests
- the need to develop effective and efficient mechanisms for reviewing requests, coordinating collection development and interlibrary loan activities, and expediting final disposition of the requests
- the need to develop more effective and efficient methods of notifying a patron of the status of his or her request.

The Committee recognizes and has discussed at length the possibility of using the review criteria to exclude from interlibrary loan items meeting the criteria, whether or not purchased for the local collection. In putting forth our suggestions we wish to promote the spirit of the Minnesota Library Planning Task Force Vision Statement:

"All people in Minnesota will have access to a wide array of high quality library services and global information resources in a range of formats whenever, wherever, and however the information services are needed." - Library Planning Task Force Vision Statement, 1995; MnLINK Policy Advisory Committee, 2002

In an effort to place the interests of library users at the center of resource sharing policy, the Committee strongly discourages any library's use of the review criteria to deny service to library users in the library's role as either interlibrary loan borrower or lender.