

V-Cat Voting Models Exploratory Committee Meeting



Tuesday, June 2, 2020

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Remote meeting via GoToMeeting

Wisconsin Valley Library Service Meeting Room
300 First Street - Wausau WI, 54403

Meeting Minutes

(prepared by Katie Zimmermann)

Attendees:

Committee Members: Erica Clarkson – Medford, Debra Kiefer – T. B. Scott, Heidi O’Hare, Tomahawk, Tammie Blomberg – Rib Lake, Dominic Frandrup – Antigo, Kay Heiting – Granton, Katie Zimmermann – WVLS **Others:** none.

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Erica Clarkson, Committee Chair.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda was made by D. Frandrup, seconded by H. O’Hare. Motion carried.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: April 2020

Motion to approve minutes was made by D. Kiefer, seconded by H. O’Hare. Motion carried.

Review of Previously Discussed Models With V-Cat Data and Discussion of Models

The committee reviewed V-Cat library **circulation data** for one year and three years as a means to calculate weighted votes.

The committee discussed the rounding of percentages to calculate votes. It was noted that many voting models round up to the nearest whole percent to ensure that any libraries with less than one percent share have a vote. The committee found that this over inflates some libraries’ votes by giving a full additional vote for any fraction of a percentage. For instance, 1.01% rounds to two votes, as does 1.8%. The recommendation was made to round any percentage under 1% up to 1, and round other percentages over 1% to the nearest whole percent. Following that recommendation, 0.4% would round up to one vote, 1.01% would round down to 1 vote and 1.8% would round up to two votes. It was also noted that depending upon the partial percentages and rounding, the number of total votes may vary slightly across models.

The committee reviewed V-Cat library **holdings data** for one year and three years as a means to calculate weighted votes.

Cost per circulation was shared as a possible factor to consider, and the committee chose not to pursue additional data to fully consider a model based on cost per circulation.

Service population and required library director certification levels were also reviewed as a possible factors to consider, and the committee chose not to pursue them further.

The committee looked at **combined circulation and holdings data** that V-Cat uses to calculate annual V-Cat budget shares as a means to calculate weighted votes. T. Blomberg noted that the budget share averaged over three years seemed to be a balanced and fair way to determine weighted votes. D. Frandrup agreed that the three year average seems to offer consistency year over year.

Some concern was expressed over the perception that libraries who pay more money have a larger vote. K. Heiting noted that although holdings and circulation and other factors can be manipulated to some extent, libraries are not likely to manipulate anything that results in paying a higher maintenance share. D. Frandrup agreed that this seems the fairest method. H. O'Hare also agreed that using a three year average and using the share percentage as a basis for voting seems fair. D. Kiefer agreed that budget share seems the most fair and consistent.

Net lending and net borrowing data from the 2019 totals report were considered as an additional factor for calculating weighted votes. A ratio of the number of items sent for every item received was considered as a factor. If libraries lend more, they are providing an additional benefit to the other V-Cat libraries. If libraries borrow more, they may be doing more to encourage patrons to order items from other locations. Or it could be that some libraries have more demand than they are able to fill with their local materials. The committee would like to pursue offering additional weight to net lending libraries. More consideration is needed to integrate net borrowing/lending as a factor for calculating weighted votes.

The committee reviewed V-Cat library **registered borrowers data** for one year and three years as a means to calculate weighted votes. Committee members noted that this factor is very easy to manipulate by either not cleaning up records regularly or by pushing new card applications for babies and young children. Standard guidelines for cleaning up patron records were discussed. If registered borrowers data was to be used as a factor for weighted votes the guidelines would need to be reviewed and enforced. The thought behind using registered borrowers comes from a proposed, but unsuccessful, project to merge ILS between Winnefox, Nicolet Federated and Outagamie Waupaca library systems. In the proposed funding model, registered borrowers data was used in calculating budget shares as well as voting shares with the thought that if a library's fee is based on the number of item records in the database, it could also be expected to pay for its number of patron records in the database. Since this is not a factor in the V-Cat funding model, it may not make sense to include it as a factor in weighted voting.

K. Zimmermann reviewed the point that factors in the funding model make good factors for weighted votes. If factors in the funding structure are also used in the voting structure, a library may be less likely to manipulate its records to inflate its numbers because it has the potential to increase the library's costs. D. Frandrup agreed.

K. Zimmermann presented a possible method for weighting votes by **county representation**, giving each county a set number of votes divided out by library. The idea behind the method is that libraries join a system by county. It offers a regional grouping similar to the cluster representation in place in the South Central Library System.

D. Kiefer thanked K. Zimmermann for presenting the numbers and information in an easy to understand way.

Additional Discussion

T. Blomberg stated that the budget share looks like the best option and encouraged the committee to further explore factoring in net lending. D. Kiefer also agreed that using net lending as a factor gives some recognition to what libraries are giving to the group. D. Frandrup noted that it could help for some libraries that have a half percent or are between percentages. H. O'Hare mentioned that it contributes to the concept of collaboration within a system and helps to focus on what libraries have to offer the group - even if a library is small it is an important part of the whole. After a preliminary look at how to calculate votes based on V-Cat shares with a bonus for net lending, the committee realized that more careful consideration of how to incorporate net lending was needed.

Discussion of Information to Present to the V-Cat Steering Committee

When the committee is ready, the information considered, and recommended model will be presented to the V-Cat Steering committee.

Request for Agenda Items

- Review of using V-Cat Shares plus net lending as the basis for a weighted voting model
- Review of what motions have been particularly difficult in the past for V-Cat Council
- Discussion of when to use weighted vote vs. when to use one per library vote
- Discussion of when to require 2/3 majority vs. when to require 51% majority

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held in July.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by D. Frandrup, and seconded by K. Heiting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.