

**Subject: Library Collections**

**FY 2023 Proposed Budget  
Budget Work Session Follow-up**

**4/7/2022**

The following information is provided in response to a request made by Ms. Cristol and Mr. Dorsey at the work session on 03/15/2022, regarding the following question:

*Provide thoughts on a funding model to reduce wait times and address what the right balance should be for the three platforms (print, ebooks, and audiobooks).*

\*\*\*\*\*

Prior to the pandemic, the wait time for the most popular print books in the collection was 12 weeks and trending lower. Currently, the average wait time for print books is at 16 weeks as of this month (March 2022). Wait times for ebooks and eaudiobooks are at 35 weeks on average across the collection. Staff believes that 8 weeks is an attainable goal and a reasonable wait time for the community.

Staff also believes that consistent wait times across electronic and print materials is a realistic goal. The Library Department wants to meet the community where they are and not foster inequity based on a patron's preferred or required choice of format.

To bring all three platform wait times to 8 weeks would require an increase of \$543,000 to the collection's base budget. Alternatively, to bring all wait times to 16 weeks (current average print wait time as of March 2022) would require an increase of \$250,000 to the collection's base budget specifically for this goal.

The County Manager is recommending the allocation of one-time funding with mid-year FY 2022 funds to address this need.