



DOWNTOWN LIBRARY
610 QUINCY ST. | RAPID CITY, SD 57701 | 605.394.4171

RAPIDCITYLIBRARY.ORG



Date: February 14, 2022
To: RCPL Board of Trustees
From: Emily Tupa, Policy Committee Chair
Re: Reciprocal borrowing agreement

Date: February 7, 2022
To: Emily Tupa, Policy Committee Chair
From: Terri Davis, Director
Re: Reciprocal borrowing agreement

Motion: Move to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the other three Pennington County libraries for an unlimited time period, with a 60-day termination clause.

Background: Reciprocal borrowing is a practice whereby libraries agree to accept library users' accounts from other libraries, for the purpose of providing seamless library service. This is especially helpful in areas like Pennington County, where individuals may live in one community but work in another, or travel between communities for shopping, school, etc.

The Rapid City Public Library has had an informal reciprocal borrowing pilot project with the Wall Community library since 2018; this project was undertaken to test the reciprocal borrowing model, and has resulted in minimal to no impact for either library. In 2019, a formal reciprocal borrowing project was initiated with the Sturgis Public Library, for the purposes of RCPL providing library service to the residents of Ellsworth Air Force Base. That agreement was extended in late 2020, to be ongoing with a 90-day termination clause. Again, the impact has been negligible for both libraries, and the patrons who use the service are appreciative of doing so; reciprocal borrowing in 2021 is reflected in the table below.

With Hill City recently joining the Black Hills Library Consortium, all four public libraries in Pennington County now use the same system for their patron database, checkout system, and catalog. This shared system makes county-wide reciprocal borrowing feasible, with each of the libraries agreeing to recognize the library accounts from the other libraries.

This agreement does not impact the existing contract with Pennington County. If necessary, any of the libraries may withdraw from the reciprocal borrowing agreement with 60 days written notice to the other parties.

	Patrons from	Borrowed	Items from
34	Rapid City	61	Sturgis
13	Rapid City	16	Wall
220	Sturgis	5,115	Rapid City
15	Wall	34	Rapid City