

Rethinking Fines: Considering Equity, Inclusion, and Retention

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Oberlin College Libraries

Columbus Library doesn't miss forgone late fines

Salt Lake City libraries do away with late fees

Baltimore's Pratt Library goes fine free for overdue books

“Overdue fines were intended to encourage the return of materials. Instead, in practice, they all too often foster an adversarial relationship in key library/patron interactions.

.....

Removing this barrier puts access first.”

Library Journal, 7/1/2018, Vol. 143 Issue 12, p8.

Curious Librarian:

“So what happens when a patron habitually, consistently returns his/materials late? When there's no "incentive" to bring them back on time, what motivates them to follow the policy? Also, how are lost items handled? Are the fines eliminated too? Everyone talk about equitable access, but a lost public property has to be recovered by someone, the items has to be replaced and put back on the shelf.”

JUSTIFICATIONS FOR FINES

REVENUE



TEACH RESPONSIBILITY



ENFORCE LOAN PERIODS



OUR ENVIRONMENT

Extended loans and no fines for students & employees for “regular” circulation

- placing a hold on enrollment for overdue materials from students
- billing for replacement for non-response to multiple overdue notifications

Shorter loan periods and fines for materials that are known to be in high demand, for example

Recalls: \$10.00/day

Reserves: \$2.00/hour

Laptops: \$5.00/hour

Journals: \$1.00/day

OhioLINK: \$0.50/day

HANDLING NON-COMPLIANCE

- Suspending privileges when the money owed exceeds \$150
- Placing enrollment holds for unpaid fines over \$5
- Billing for unpaid fines upon departure from the college (leave or graduation)

HANDLING APPEALS

- Offering half-off the accrued fine if paid within 2 weeks of posting
- Routinely waiving a first fine as a learning experience
- Reducing or waiving fines when requested by student support staff because of financial or other stressors
- Offering amnesty periods for the return of overdue materials
- Offering a “food for fines” program

PROBLEMS WITH THESE APPROACHES

- Creates inequities between people who pursue a remedy and those who don't
- Forces students already under stress to take on additional work to get relief
- Requiring library staff to justify apparently arbitrary loan periods, especially when the item is renewable

Worst of all, the students who need our services the most are the ones most at risk of accruing the fines and losing library privileges either because of suspension or because of shame and anxiety.

PERIODICALS

2006-2007: **830** circulations in the Main Library

2016-2017: **83** circulations in the Main Library

1 week loan period with \$1/day fines based on the assumptions that
People expect to find journals on the shelves
Volumes of journals are hard to replace

Constant requests for extended loans or renewals that seemed reasonable

Changed to a semester loan for journals, with no daily fines and a bill for replacement if the item is 2 weeks overdue

2017-2018: **134** circulations in the Main Library

LAPTOPS

2017-2018: 35 laptops, **10041** circulations in the Main Library

4 hour loan period with \$5/hour fines

Constant requests for extended loans or renewals that we couldn't support, given the demand on the service

100-200 students with limited resources trying to use this service to be a personal laptop

In partnership with the Center for Student Success, identify borrowers needing extended use of a laptop

Various campus offices help pay for the collection (currently 9)

We serve as the record keepers

Desk staff also refers students when they become aware of a need

RESERVE

2017-2018: nearly 4000 items on reserve, almost 7000 circulations in the Main Library

3 hour loan period with \$2/hour fines

Disability Resources staff alerted us to the barrier this was to students with print disabilities

In partnership with the Center for Student Success, identify borrowers needing extended loan periods for print reserve

Created a new itype and loan rules to automate the process and minimize the revealing of personal details

Author [Mankiw, N. Gregory, author](#)
Title **Principles of economics / N. Gregory Mankiw**
Imprint Boston, MA, USA : Cengage Learning, [2018]
©2018
Edition Eighth edition

mark this record as <<http://olc1.ohiolink.edu:80/record=b38349246~S0>>

Library Holdings



Library	Location	Online Version	Call Number/Serial Holdings	Status
Oberlin College	Main Reserve		HB171.5 .M264 2018	LOCAL USE ONLY
Oberlin College	Main Reserve		HB171.5 .M264 2018 c.2	LOCAL USE ONLY
Oberlin College	Main Reserve		HB171.5 .M264 2018 c.3	LOCAL USE ONLY

Min. Days Requested : 7
Title: A place for us : a novel / Fatima Farheen Mirza
Call Number: PS3613.I79 P53 2018
Requested Date: Tue Sep 04 2018
Central Status: @
Central Item Level Holds: 1
Central Due Date: Wed Aug 29 2018

Min. Days Requested : 7
Title: Fargo. Year 3 / an MGM/FXP production ; created fo
Call Number: PN1992.77 .F374 2017
Requested Date: Thu Sep 20 2018
Central Status: @
Central Item Level Holds: 1
Central Due Date: Fri Sep 14 2018

INN-REACH RETURNED TOO LONG REPORT

Min. Days Requested : 7
Title: The intimacies of four continents / Lisa Lowe
Call Number: JC574 .L688 2015
Requested Date: Mon Sep 10 2018
Central Status: @
Central Item Level Holds: 1
Central Due Date: Thu Sep 20 2018

OHIO LINK/SEARCH OHIO ITEMS CHECKED OUT AND OVERDUE

Boolean Search ✖

Review File Name:

Store Record Type:

Range

Classic

Enhanced

JSON

Classic

Term	Operator	Type	Field	Condition	Value A	Value B
1		ITEM	LOANRULE	equal to	48	
2	OR	ITEM	LOANRULE	equal to	56	
3	OR	ITEM	LOANRULE	equal to	148	
4	OR	ITEM	LOANRULE	equal to	150	
5	OR	ITEM	LOANRULE	equal to	94	
6	OR	ITEM	LOANRULE	equal to	113	
7	OR	ITEM	LOANRULE	equal to	142	
8	OR	ITEM	LOANRULE	equal to	144	

(ITEM LOANRULE equal to "48" OR ITEM LOANRULE equal to "56" OR ITEM LOANRULE equal to "148" OR ITEM LOANRULE equal to "150" OR ITEM LOANRULE equal to "94" OR ITEM LOANRULE equal to "113" OR ITEM LOANRULE equal to "142" OR ITEM LOANRULE equal to "144" OR ITEM LOANRULE equal to "143" OR ITEM LOANRULE equal to "95") AND ITEM DUE DATE less than "09-25-2018"

Group

Ungroup

Insert Line

Append Line

Delete

Clear All

OUTSTANDING HOLDS REPORT

ITEM i

Start St

Classic

Term	Operator	Type	Field	Condition	
1		ITEM	Hold Status	equal to	0
2	OR	BIBLIOGRAPHIC	Hold Status	equal to	0

BARCODE	STAT	DUE DATE	LOC	CALL #(ITEM)
39362052283685	@	10/22/2018	m	QA76.6 .L33 2016
39362052555132	@	9/10/2018	m	B829.5 .F433 2017
39362052475562	@	9/11/2018	m	PN4129.15 .L83 2015
39362019063956	@	8/28/2018	m	E185.97.S53 A3 2001
39362051793072	@	10/8/2018	a	N7480 .A774 2014
39362051893666	@	9/26/2018	m	E185.86 .H328 2013
39362052710083	@	9/20/2018	m	D13 .H854 2018
39362052631495	@	9/17/2018	m	BH203 .L55 2017
39362050903896	@	10/19/2018	cbk	ML113 .S28 2013
39362019189595	@	10/7/2018	m	DS135.H93 O97 2010
39362052876751	@	10/12/2018	m	E184.A1 S613 2017
39362018726959	@	10/8/2018	cbk	ML421.B93 H56 2008
39362050846756	@	10/15/2018	m	TK5105.875.I57 K88 2013
39362052440426	@	10/22/2018	m	HD8072.5 .C69 2012
39362052631164	@	10/19/2018	m	D524.7.T8 A35 2018
39362052901658	@	10/23/2018	m	JC573 .R63 2018
39362014639644	@	10/15/2018	m	LD4168 .F58 2004
39362051723186	@	10/9/2018	m	PS3564.E4687 Z46 2015
39362052219531	@	10/16/2018	m	PZ7.1.T448 Hat 2017
39362051917242	@	10/15/2018	cs	M298.A519 C7 2009

Notification of a hold on an OhioLINK/SearchOhio item

1 message

Allison Gallaher <allison.gallaher@oberlin.edu>

Thu, Oct 11, 2018 at 1:28 PM

Hi! This is just a notification that the item below has a hold on it and your borrower will not be able to renew it. If you see anything in your records that we should make note of, please let me know. Thanks!

b3650905x

AUTHOR Kurose, James F

TITLE Computer networking : a top-down approach / James F. Kurose, Keith W. Ross

LOCATIONS main

BILLING BUT NOT FINING



One day loan period
Billed if not returned after two
overdue notices



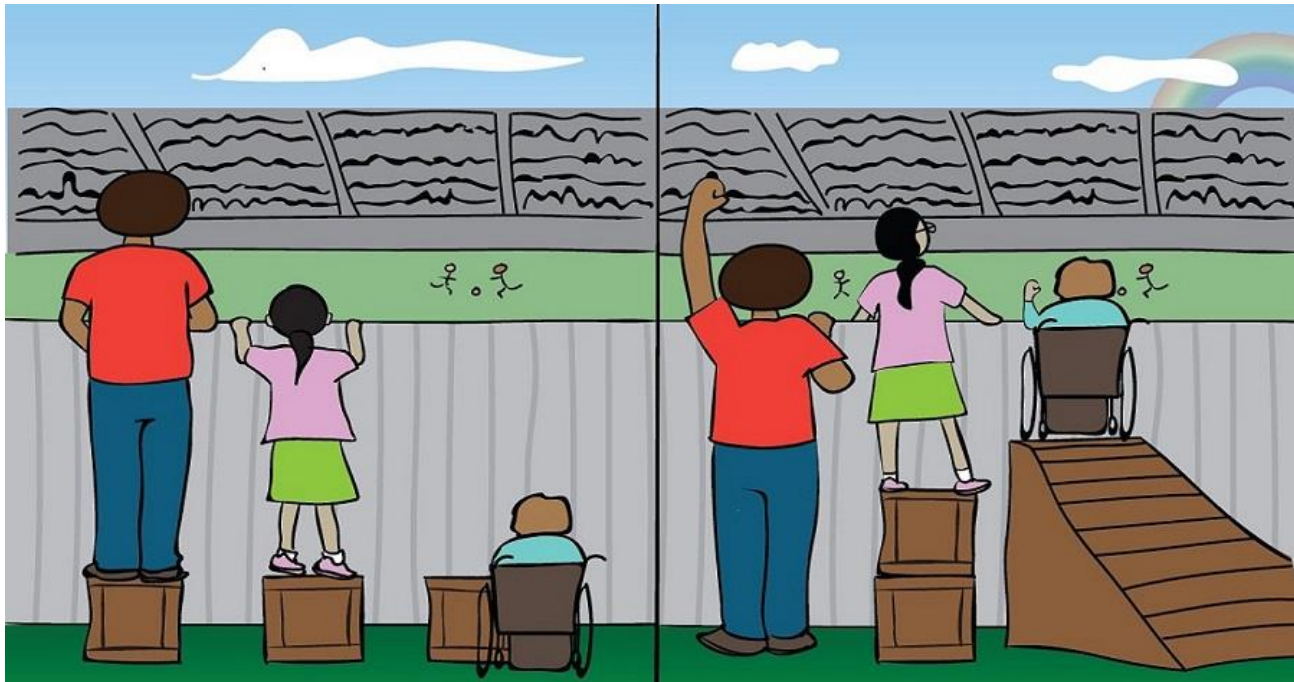
Due at the end of the day
Billed if not returned after two overdue
notices

TO WRAP UP

EQUAL ISN'T THE SAME AS EQUITABLE

LOOK FOR POLICIES THAT
OFFER EQUITABLE ACCESS FOR
EACH STUDENT

SPEND YOUR TIME ON THE
MATERIALS FOR WHICH THERE'S
COMPETITION



QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND DISCUSSION

Thank you!

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