Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ITEM NO.:	**6.A**	MEETING DATE:	**Jan. 20, 2023**
SUBJECT:	**Merger of Adult Services Div. and Ref. and Inf. Services Div.**	SUBMITTED BY:	**RISD**

REPORT FOR DISCUSSION

As the library culture has changed over the years, the need for a separate Reference and Information Services Division (RISD) has changed as well. Today, many of the responsibilities that were specific to RISD have been absorbed by the Adult Services Librarian. Due to this change in librarian responsibilities, the need for two separate divisions to cover the same services provided has proven challenging.

The RISD has taken care of the review and content updates to Ohio Reference Excellence (ORE) – OLC's online reference education training modules. This would continue to be a responsibility of the division if combined. RISD as well as the Adult Services Division has tried to provide workshop programs for the various day conferences and the OLC Expo and Convention. Over the last few years, division members have noticed (and struggled a bit) in developing ideas that do not overlap between the two divisions. Many program submissions are the same or quite similar. This presents the problem of having less program ideas to choose from.

We propose that the two divisions be combined. The positive outcomes would include the following:

1. There would be less competition between program ideas. With the two divisions working together, there could be more collaboration of ideas to create a more comprehensive offering of programs for the day conferences as well as for Convention and Expo.
2. Less redundancy. The merger of the two divisions would eliminate some of the subject redundancy taking place. One combined division would be able to find new members and participants amongst librarians instead of having them choose what division to be part of.
3. Greater resources. The combining of divisions would allow a greater diversity of librarians that can work together to maintain and promote the ORE as well as provide insight to better support librarians around the state of Ohio.

If the two divisions are combined:

1. Leadership roles – there has been some discussion already between those in leadership positions and we are all willing to work together to see this work.
2. Division members – it would be beneficial if this division could have more than the normal eight members. We propose to have at least 10-12 division members (4 slots for leadership plus 6-8 additional members). Increasing the number of division members allows for greater collaboration of ideas.

We appreciate the consideration of the merger of the Adult Services and Reference and Information Services Divisions.