

October 2014

To: IHLS Board of Trustees
IHLS Finance Committee
SHARE Finance Committee
General Membership of IHLS

From: Barbara Rhodes, Director
Mississippi Valley Library District
408 W. Main
Collinsville, IL 62234

Subject: Reconsideration of billing charge

I am requesting a reconsideration of the \$40 billing charge on e-resources and any other billing charge that may be in consideration for the future.

This \$40 charge per online database is extreme and not justifiable.
The reasons listed for this charge are staff time and billing.

Staff time at the Library System on behalf of the members should not be chargeable. In essence in the case of my Library District that would be equivalent to my Board paying me for doing a portion of my job. The staff at the Library System work for our libraries as the staffs in our individual libraries work for our public. Our Library District does not charge for its services on an individual basis and the staff is hired to fulfill any task that is given to them in their allotted time on duty. It is unfathomable that we as libraries in this System will now be paying double for portions of a staff member's day.

Negotiating for online databases for the members is not an extensive undertaking. The vendors want and need our business and know that they must give competitive pricing once a year. I have negotiated with my own vendors and within several emails I have the price I need. Once a database is agreed to, the System does not set up the icon on our web pages nor do they troubleshoot our issues (at least not in my experience).

Billing from the Library System is minimal. A bill in their automated system is a few keystrokes, printing, folding, placing in an envelope and mailing for a cost of approximately \$1.00 (factored at \$25,000 employee taking 10 minutes with a paper, envelope and a stamp rounded to the nearest dollar). An email bill would be setting up the bill and typing in an email address and hitting send. I also have contacted two of my vendors that would bill me separately and give me the IHLS pricing.

I would appreciate notification of when this matter will be discussed and be advised of any outcomes associated with this request.

Thank you for your consideration.