Summary of Major Changes to the Interlibrary Loan Code for the United States with Explanatory Text

ALA RUSA STARS Codes, Guidelines, and Technical Standards Committee (June 2023)

The separate Interlibrary Loan Code for the United States and its accompanying Explanatory Supplement have been merged into one document called the Interlibrary Loan Code for the United States with Explanatory Text. Other major changes to the document based on Fall 2021, Fall 2022, and Spring 2023 public feedback are highlighted below. The Interlibrary Loan Code for the United States with Explanatory Text sets expectation standards and reflects the shared values of our resource sharing community.

Definitions
Section 1.2: ‘eBooks’ has been added to the list of non-returnable materials.
Section 1.3: New section to define ‘Accessible’ as an alternative format for persons with disabilities.
Explanatory Text 1.3: New section to describe Section 121 of Copyright Law (Chafee Amendment).

Scope
Section 3.2: International transactions also governed by copyright law and treaties.
Explanatory Text 3.2: Copyright Law Section 121A and Marrakesh Treaty apply to international ILL.

Responsibilities of the Requesting Library
Explanatory Text 4.4: Shipment tracking has been added to the examples of special requirements.
Section 4.5: New section to communicate requirements for a user’s accessibility needs.
Explanatory Text 4.5: New section on obtaining accessible formats under section 121 of Copyright Law.
Explanatory Text 4.9: Section 121 is law; CONTU alternatives may serve as compliance mechanisms.
Explanatory Text 4.10: Requesting library must not clean or repair material without supplier approval.
Explanatory Text 4.11: Requesting library must review invoices upon receipt and notify supplying library with errors/questions.
Explanatory Text 4.13: Text and rationale for due date definition has been condensed.
Section 4.13: Requesting library must not give user an initial due date beyond the supplier’s due date.
Section 4.17: Supplying library may suspend service to requesting library until problem is resolved.

Responsibilities of the Supplying Library
Explanatory Text 5.1: Suppliers are encouraged to provide equitable access for all types of libraries.
Explanatory Text 5.3: Do not charge renewal fees for materials still on loan to a requesting library.
Explanatory Text 5.4: Consult with requesting library before filling from unpublished works found online.
Section 5.5: New section on supplying accessible formats for users with disabilities.
Explanatory Text 5.5: New section on filling requests to meet an accessibility need.
Section 5.6: Requests should be processed accurately.
Explanatory Text 5.6: Pay attention to notes in requests.
Explanatory Text 5.8: Supplying library should secure agreement for usage/shipping restrictions.
Explanatory Text 5.9: Deliver items to location specified by requesting library or consortial service.
Explanatory Text 5.9: Specify if tracking is required when returning materials.
Explanatory Text 5.10: Renewing an item is preferable to mandating return and requiring a re-request.
Section 5.12: Adhere to any accessibility instructions.
Explanatory Text 5.12: Pay appropriate attention to providing any supplementary material.
Explanatory Text 5.12: Evaluate request conditions and communicate what’s possible before canceling.