

AMNESTY FOR FINES IN ALL OF OWLSNET

3/2018

Several libraries have recently initiated amnesty for fines at local libraries. At the January 2018 AAC meeting it was agreed that we would bring a proposal to the March 2018 AAC meeting to discuss amnesty across all of OWLSnet. The following is a proposal intended to foster discussion at AAC and allow you to consider what may be required when talking to your staff, boards or funding agencies. These points are subject to change and are only a suggested proposal.

A system-wide Amnesty for Fines would:

- Apply to all libraries in OWLSnet
- Be advertised on InfoSoup
- Require patrons to bring something in, such as food, pet supplies, hygiene items, etc., to have fines waived
 - \$1 per unopened item/package with a limit of \$5
- Have libraries partner with a local organization throughout this drive in which all the items collected would go to the local organization
 - Some examples may be a local food shelter, animal rescue organization, Help for the Homeless, etc.
- Only apply to fines, not bills
 - Other libraries' fines could be waived if this was a system-wide initiative
- Allow items to be brought back or renewed
- Happen for a week in spring and/or fall
 - National Library Week (April 8-14)
 - September is Library Card Sign-up Month
 - Banned Books Week is September 24-30