

Digital Library News

World Digital Libraries 12(2): 93–96 (2019)

Big Five Publishers Digital Lending and Purchase Models for Public Libraries

Public libraries in the United States which have audiobook and e-book collection facility have to deal with all of the big five publishers. Each publisher has different terms and conditions as well as pricing. This can be troublesome for collection managers. Some books can be even 1200% more than what people pay on online sites such as Amazon for the same title while others expire after a certain number of loans. It can be quite misleading for journalists, patrons or libraries.

Last year Good e-Reader produced the first data report for its kind, looking at each publisher and their various lending models for e-books. Latest report includes e-books and audiobooks. The purpose is to give journalists, readers, patrons, and libraries an understanding of the various terms and conditions that the big five publishers have.

This data report is sourced from both Good e-Reader and countless interviews with various public libraries and Overdrive, the leading company that powers the audiobook and e-book collection of thousands of libraries in the United States.

Source: Details available at <https://goodereader.com/blog/e-book-news/big-5-publishers-digital-lending-and-purchase-models-for-public-libraries>

Arcadia Fund Grant to Support Open-source Publishing Across UC Campuses

The Educopia Institute and California Digital Library or CDL received a \$2.2 million grant in August in support of the Next Generation Library Publishing project, or Next Gen.

The grant was bestowed by the Arcadia Fund, a charity that supports environmental, cultural heritage, and open-access projects. The Next Gen project is said to enhance the UC system's open-access publishing infrastructure by providing non-commercial tools that support the dissemination of knowledge, according to a CDL press release.

Mitchell added that the Next Gen project will be implemented in, and eventually improve, the e-Scholarship platform, which serves as a set of resources that enables departments, research units, publishing programmes, and scholars to achieve “direct control over the creation and dissemination of the full range of their scholarship,” according to its website.

Currently publishing over 80 academic journals, e-Scholarship is a platform that provides publishing services to the 10 UC campuses. According to Mitchell, both students and staff are eligible for accessing these resources.

More specifically, the e-Scholarship publishing platform will see improvements from

Next Gen by growing its support for a broad range of publication types and features, as per Mitchell. She added that the platform will be an ‘even better choice’ for publishers in two and a half years.

According to the CDL press release, the growing needs for the publishing field to implement new tools, business models, and workflows is critical for it to scale up its work. In the press release, Mitchell also stressed the importance of ensuring that publishing tools and services are reflective of the values of academic institutions.

On its website, the Arcadia Fund states that open-access is one of its core tenets. Since 2002, Arcadia has garnered \$61 million worth of grants geared towards open-access, according to its website.

Source: Details available at <https://www.dailycal.org/2019/09/16/arcadia-fund-grant-to-support-open-source-publishing-across-uc-campuses/>

NDSA Announces the Levels of Digital Preservation 2.0

In 2018 the NDSA sent out a call to the larger digital preservation community, asking for interest in updating the Levels of Preservation. Response was high—125 individuals responded! NDSA then convened the Levels of Preservation Working group, which divided up into subgroups to tackle the many areas the community wanted to see addressed in a Levels Reboot. Individuals worked with their chosen subgroups.

The *Implementation Subgroup*, led by Corey Davis and Eleni Castro, surveyed the community to see how the levels had been used in the past and what people liked and didn’t like. This information was one of the sources used to assist with the revision of the Levels Matrix. The survey results are available on the NDSA OSF website.

The *Revisions Subgroup*, led by Karen Cariani and Dan Noonan, met almost weekly for months to address the community’s needs and concerns about updating the Levels Matrix. Their

dedicated work produced the updated Levels Matrix and Implementation Guide.

The *Assessment Subgroup*, led by Carol Kussmann and Amy Rudersdorf, worked to further explore how the Levels had been used as an assessment. A report of findings was published on the NDSA OSF website. In addition, an Assessment Tool, based on the updated Levels Matrix was created.

The *Curatorial Subgroup*, headed by Bradley Daigle and Angela Beking has a public draft available—of both the visual and written components. The Curatorial work is meant to form the basis of a series of discussion and decision points around how collections materials can be mapped to the Levels and other elements within an organizations’ preservation strategy.

Source: Details available at <https://www.diglib.org/nds-announces-the-levels-of-digital-preservation-2-0/>

International Digital Library of Hebrew Manuscripts

The British Library partners with the National Library of Israel

As part of the International Digital Library of Hebrew Manuscripts initiative, a joint venture of the National Library of Israel and the Friedberg Jewish Manuscript Society, the National Library of Israel and The British Library are pleased to announce the signing of a partnership agreement providing for the digitization of at least 860 Hebrew manuscripts from the British Library’s collection, in addition to 1,250 already being digitized and made available through an earlier project funded by The Polonsky Foundation. Through these two projects, all 3,200 manuscripts in the British Library’s collection will be fully catalogued and digitized images of at least 2,110 will be made available online via the International Digital Library of Hebrew Manuscripts website and the British Library’s website.

Source: Details available at <https://web.nli.org.il/sites/nli/english/library/news/pages/nli-and-the-british-library.aspx>

American Library Association Starts an Online Petition Against New Macmillan E-book Policy

The American Library Association has just written a petition, citing their utter and complete disdain for the new Macmillan library terms. Macmillan is basically only allowing one e-book copy to be available for libraries during the first eight weeks of release, resultantly, libraries can only issue one e-book at a time.

In a July memo addressed to Macmillan authors, illustrators, and agents, the company's CEO, John Sargent, cited the "growing fears that library lending was cannibalizing sales" as a reason for embargoing libraries from purchasing more than one copy of new books during their first eight weeks on sale. "It seems that given a choice between a purchase of an e-book for \$12.99 or a frictionless lend for free, the American e-book reader is starting to lean heavily toward free," he claimed.

Many individual library systems and companies that work with libraries swiftly responded with objections. "Public libraries are engaged in one of the most valuable series of community services for all ages, for all audiences," said Steve Potash, the CEO and founder of Over Drive, a company that supplies libraries with e-books. "The public library is just something that is underappreciated. It certainly is so by Macmillan," he added.

Tom Mercer, the SVP of Digital Products, for Bibliotheca (formally 3M Cloud Library) told Good e-Reader that "We are seeing a shift from several of the major publishing companies. Blackstone Audio is embargoing audiobook titles for 90 days, Hachette has changed from perpetual access to two-year expirations (also implemented by Penguin Random House last October), and Macmillan will limit the quantity of front list titles. It's unlikely that all of these publishers would be changing their terms without external pressures. So, where is the pressure coming from? There is evidence to suggest that in recent

years, authors and agents have come to feel that the library market is eroding their revenue. I think it's telling that Macmillan CEO John Sargent addressed his letter about the library model change to Macmillan Authors, Macmillan Illustrators and Agents."

Source: Details available at <https://goodereader.com/blog/digital-library-news/ala-starts-an-online-petition-against-new-macmillan-ebook-policy>

The Invisible Library: the Positive Side of Increased Mobile Use

Every year individuals spend more of their day looking at screens, both in the US and around the world. That time includes "traditional" forms of screen time, like watching television, but increasingly it means being online and connected to the digital world. The ubiquity and convenience of handheld mobile devices like e-readers, tablets, and smartphones, means that they are both the main means we choose to use to access the Internet and the primary drivers of that increased usage.

Mobile takes the lead

Whether we're reading e-books, shopping at e-commerce sites or playing free online casino games, we are now more likely to be doing so on a mobile device than on a desktop computer. According to Mary Meeker's influential *Internet Trends* report for 2019, last year the number of hours that Americans spent on mobile devices outstripped those they spent watching television for the first time. On an average, we spent 226 minutes (nearly four hours) on mobile devices compared to 216 minutes watching TV. Yet in 2009 we spent 266 minutes a day watching TV, but just 20 minutes on mobile.

Cause for concern

On one side, campaigners would have celebrated the fact that we were spending less time watching TV, but on the other side for many, digital addiction is an even worse evil. Certainly, there is evidence that spending too much time online can

be bad for your mental health and can adversely affect your sleep patterns. This is particularly true with social media sites, which can increase stress and anxiety and which in many cases are intentionally addictive.

But the real reason we are all spending more time on mobile devices is because they are useful, convenient, and increasingly the most effective way to absorb information and ideas. It should be obvious, but the growth in e-readers is actively encouraging reading among children and adults alike. In developing countries, buying an e-reader for each child is a much more achievable task than stocking a village school with a comprehensive library. Yet the impact in terms of education and literacy is the same. Worldwide, many college textbooks are now only produced in a digital format, conserving both money and environmental resources, and allowing more specialized research to be published cost-effectively.

Rapid growth

In the last decade, desktop usage in terms of hours per day has stayed pretty much the same. It is the growth in the use of mobile devices that has sky-rocketed. In 2008–09 it was just 20 minutes a day. In 2010 that figure rose to 24 minutes, and then in 2011, it doubled to roughly 48 minutes. In 2012, the time spent on mobile doubled again, to one hour and 36 minutes. In 2013 it hit 2.3

hours, equalling the number of hours spent on desktops for the first time. Since then, the steady growth in mobile use has outpaced desktop, rising steadily to the current figure of 226 minutes, or 3.6 hours.

We can see that the big jump in mobile use was in 2010/2011. 2010 saw the launch of Apple's iBooks app as part of its standard iPad bundle, as well as the launch of Google eBooks, the Kobo e-reader, and the third-generation Kindle. In 2011, Amazon announced that its e-book sales had outstripped printed book sales for the first time, and launched the Kindle Fire and Kindle Touch devices.

All in one

If mobile devices have largely replaced separate cameras, wristwatches, alarm clocks, calculators, flashlights, desk diaries, radios/music players, games consoles and TVs, then they are also enabling us to read books and magazines with greater ease and convenience than ever before. This goes against the media stereotype of the blank-eyed screen addict. The growth in mobile use may just mean more people are reading books, accessing information and educating themselves. This can undeniably be called as positive development.

Source: Details available at <https://goodereader.com/blog/digital-library-news/the-invisible-library-the-positive-side-of-increased-mobile-use>