

# Important Information

## For Our E-Book / E-Audiobook Borrowers



We are happy to be able to provide e-book and e-audiobook lending to our patrons. Even our most avid e-borrowers often have questions about the process, so let us provide some answers:

Why can't I find the new title by this very famous author?

Publishers often restrict what libraries can purchase in e-book and e-audiobook format. Sometimes we are required to wait several weeks after a new bestselling item is released before we can buy it.

When I place a hold on an e-book, I often have to wait a long time. Why?

Most e-books are published on a one copy/one user model. We buy multiple copies of bestselling items for the collection as our budget will allow. Libraries are often charged more by the publisher than a consumer, especially when it comes to new releases. An e-book that might cost you \$9.99 can cost the library \$60 or more per copy.

I found the last 4 books in a series; why don't you have the first 3 books?

Some publishers sell e-books to libraries using a metered model. We are only allowed to check those titles out 26 times OR keep them in the collection for a certain amount of time (usually 2 years) before we must purchase them again. We are constantly working to repurchase expiring copies as our budget will allow, but older titles often don't make the cut due to lower circulation numbers.

These restrictions don't seem fair!

We agree! And, publisher restrictions on library purchasing are getting worse. Blackstone Publishers (a major e-audiobook publisher) recently stopped allowing public libraries to purchase select releases for 3 months. Macmillan Publishers limited public libraries to 1 copy of new releases in digital formats followed by a 2-month restriction (embargo) on purchasing more copies. By severely limiting libraries' ability to buy their books, publishers are hoping to turn borrowers into buyers. Not only is the mission of libraries to provide equitable access to all severely compromised with such decisions, but this shortsighted model overlooks that fact that library customers are their customers too! Library users buy books, talk about books, and help sell books.

Can I do anything about it?

**Voice your concerns directly to the publishers.** Tell them you want better e-book access. Let them know if you recommend titles and authors to friends or if you often buy books you learned about through the library.

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