

Why doesn't the library carry more copies of ebooks? Why are so many popular titles missing?

Simply put, digital books carry more restrictions than print books, and there are several titles from popular authors that libraries are not allowed to buy. Some publishers withhold ebooks from libraries entirely, others have begun to charge libraries more and/or have limited how we can lend ebooks.

When libraries or consumers purchase print books, we own them outright and can do with them as we wish. In contrast, we don't own ebooks; we lease them, and are subject to the terms and conditions set forth by each publisher or distributor. Below is an overview of the six biggest publishers and their current ebook licensing practices with libraries.

Simon and Schuster will not license ebooks to libraries.

MacMillan does not make ebooks available to libraries.

Hachette in general, does not make frontlist titles (titles newer than 1 year) available to libraries, and they have increased their prices roughly 220% in the last year.

Random House currently licenses both frontlist and backlist titles (older than 1 year) to libraries, but they have raised their prices roughly 300% in the past year, with some titles reaching \$100.

HarperCollins will license ebooks to libraries, however each title can only be circulated 26 times. After 26 readers have checked out the title, the library must repurchase it.

Penguin ended its relationship with Overdrive, MVPL's ebook provider in early 2012. Penguin has blocked support for Kindle titles, which is why some Overdrive Kindle ebooks can not be transferred wirelessly, but must be sideloaded. (Sideloaded refers to transferring content by connecting your device to your laptop or computer with a USB cable).

Cost Comparison Chart

- Library print cost versus ebook cost
- Ebook prices for library versus ebook prices for consumers

Title, Author Publisher	Print price for library List price/discount Baker & Taylor	Ebook price for library Overdrive	Ebook price for consumer
The \$100 Start Up by Chris Guillebeau, Random House	\$23.00/\$12.88 Hardcover	\$69.00	\$11.99 Amazon/Nook
Seraphina by Rachel Hartman, Random House	\$10.99/\$6.59 Paperback	\$53.97	\$9.99 Amazon/Nook
Les Miserables by Victor Hugo, Random House	\$18.00/\$10.80 Paperback	\$54.00	Free/\$1.99 Amazon \$2.99 Nook
Cover of Snow by Jenny Milchman, Random House	\$26.00/\$14.56 Hardcover	\$78.00	\$12.99 Amazon/Nook
My Beloved World, by Sonia Sotomayor, Random House	\$15.00/\$9.00 Paperback	\$83.85	\$12.99 Nook Store (Not in Amazon)
Fifty Shades of Grey, E. L. James, Random House	\$26.95/\$15.09 Hardcover	\$95.70	\$9.99 Amazon/Nook

Examples of titles the library can not acquire in ebook format:

Safe Haven, Nicolas Sparks, Grand Central Publishing (We have the WMA audiobook, but can not buy it in any other format currently).

Nineteen Minutes, Jodi Picoult, Simon & Schuster

Steve Jobs, Walter Isaacson, Simon & Schuster

Killing Kennedy, Bill O'Reilly, Henry Holt & Co

Killing Lincoln, Bill O'Reilly, Henry Holt & Co

