



Library e-Book Advocacy Initiatives

Canadian Urban Libraries Council/Conseil des Bibliothèques Urbaines du Canada (CULC/CBUC)

<http://www.culc.ca/knowledge/ebooks/>

In November 2010, CULC/CBUC published the Vision Statement for Public Library Access to Portable and Downloadable eContent. The CULC/CBUC eContent task force formed, with a mandate to communicate with independent Canadian and multinational publishers, sharing the vision statement as a starting point for discussion of licensing and availability issues. The result of this work has been much greater public library access to e-content from all publishers, including multinational publishers. The work of the task force to improve access, discovery and publisher terms and conditions for Canadian e-books has continued through 2014 with independent Canadian publishers in collaboration with eBOUND Canada. The task force members are currently providing feedback to independent publishers, via eBOUND Canada, about working with existing technology platforms for better promotion and discovery of Canadian content with pricing and licensing models that meet the needs of libraries.

ReadersFirst

<http://readersfirst.org/>

ReadersFirst is an organization of nearly 300 libraries representing 200 million readers dedicated to ensuring that library users have the same open, easy and free access to e-books that they have come to rely on with physical books. The membership is primarily North American public libraries. ReadersFirst works with e-content distributors and library system vendors to streamline the process of obtaining e-content to improve the end user experience. The coalition hopes to give libraries the tools to make better decisions as well as provide vendors and other potential creators of e-book distribution, discovery, and download platforms the information to create products that fit libraries' needs and shared principles.

Current initiatives of ReadersFirst include discussions with vendors about using patron personal information to create separate accounts for products, rather than relying on library authentication and accounts, as well as work with NISO to initiate developing a standard for APIs between library content products and discovery layers/integrated library systems.

American Library Association (ALA) Working Group on Libraries and Digital Content

This working group advises ALA on opportunities and issues related to libraries and digital content and equitable access. They analyze and share information about options for expanding access and overcoming legal, technical and economic barriers, suggest training for libraries, serve as advocates,

advise on efforts to increase public awareness and understanding, and assist in identifying strategies to influence decision makers. The working group forms subcommittees to address specific issues, such as accessibility, privacy or publisher/service provider relations, and reaches out to other organizations as appropriate. The group is composed of both public and academic library participants.

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) eLending Working Group

The IFLA eLending working group was set up in 2011 and tasked with developing a set of principles that could guide library professionals as they grapple with the complicated process of negotiating e-book licenses with publishers and resellers across IFLA's 150 member countries. The principles were last revised in August 2013. The working group continued in 2014-2015 with the mandate to keep a watching brief on issues affecting the international community and published an eLending Background Paper in July 2014. The group includes members of IFLA's governing board, representatives of library associations and national libraries, public and academic library representatives and consultants.

European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA) Right to eRead

<http://www.eblida.org/e-read/home-campaign/>

EBLIDA's mission, together with its Europe-wide membership, is to raise awareness about the obstacles faced by libraries in the digital environment. The objective of their campaign, "*the right to e-read*" is to raise awareness among politicians, librarians and the general public, thereby enabling EBLIDA to work together to fulfill their goal: the provision of e-books by libraries all over Europe. EBLIDA has published a position paper that identifies problems with the transition from managing print collections to managing eContent, reviews and analyses several aspects of the current changes and makes two overarching recommendations: to move from the current unsatisfactory licensing offer to libraries to a regime of 'Mandatory Fair Licences;' and that the European Copyright Acquis be updated to deliver fair access to information for European libraries and their patrons. Right to eRead day, held on April 23, 2014 was a Europe-wide campaign to inform the public and policy-makers about the difficulties faced by libraries with regard to accessing e-books and digital content.

Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA)

<https://www.alia.org.au/advocacy-and-campaigns/advocacy-campaigns/ebooks-and-elending>

The Australian Library and Information Association is working to provide information for its members about e-book issues and to formulate a set of key principles to guide the procurement and use of e-books in Australian libraries. In September 2014, they released a report "The need for interlibrary lending in an e-book environment". Publications in 2013 and 2014 have included a comparison of e-books and eLending in Australian libraries, a landscape report that identifies worldwide initiatives related to library e-books, and an issue paper, as well as discussion papers on the future of collections and buy buttons in library catalogues. ALIA issued a draft position statement on e-books and e-lending in May 2013.

ARL e-Book Requirements

<http://www.arl.org/storage/documents/publications/arl-e-book-requirements-2012.pdf>

In 2012, ARL sent out an e-book RFP to a number of vendors. Contracts have been awarded to more than one vendor and the RFP is still in use by ARL. Most of the RFP is confidential, but Appendix C: ARL e-Book Requirements is public. The appendix lists e-book requirements and whether they are required or desirable. The appendix provides a great listing of what North American Academic Libraries consider to be important concerns in licensing e-books.

Royal Society of Canada Expert Panel Report, "The Future Now: Canada's Libraries, Archives, and Public Memory"

<https://rsc-src.ca/en/expert-panels/rsc-reports/future-now-canadas-libraries-archives-and-public-memory>

In November 2014 the Royal Society of Canada Expert Panel on the Status and Future of Canada's Libraries and Archives released their report. The report recommends more extensive collaboration between the various provincial and territorial library associations plus CLA, working in alliance with LAC as a partner for further e-book advocacy at federal and provincial levels.