

Making e-books accessible through libraries

Intervention by
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Objectives of the public library

- Free access to information
- Making available published works to the general public for personal study and development, education and research
- Services, literacy, lifelong learning, preservation...

Tangible objects

- Mostly well functioning copyright system for managing physical collections of analogue works
- Copyright exceptions for libraries
- National regulations for remuneration where appropriate (reduced VAT, if fixed prices...)
- Exhaustion or 'first sale' principle = libraries own their copies

Intangible objects

- Inadequate dated © system for digital collections
- Libraries can't lend e-books as they do printed books
- Libraries can't buy their choice of e-books
 - ✓ at fair prices on reasonable terms
- Licensing = no sale, no exhaustion principle, no ownership

Experiences with publishers

- Refusal to license public libraries to lend certain titles
- Prescribing the terms of access
- Subsequently removing e-book titles from existing subscription packages
- Unacceptable licence conditions
- Artificially high prices

BUT research proves library borrowers are also book buyers.

Libraries actively support and enhance the market.

EBLIDA Recommendations

- Voiding of licence terms that override Member State exceptions & limitations
- Compulsory removal of TPMs for legitimate uses
- A library 'right to acquire' any work legitimately made available to the public
 - ✓ including digital files
 - ✓ so exhaustion principle applies = transfer of ownership.
- A mandatory library 'right to lend'
 - ✓ any work in any format
 - ✓ including to 'e-lend' remotely
- Sale of digital content to libraries at reasonable market prices.

Make all e-books accessible through libraries!

