

Big Five Publishers and Library Lending

Penguin Random House—[Penguin Group USA](#)
Penguin Group (USA) is an affiliate of London-based Penguin Group, which is a division of Pearson PLC. Among its imprints are Viking, G. P. Putnam’s Sons, The Penguin Press, Riverhead Books, Dutton, Penguin Books, Berkley Books, Gotham Books, Portfolio, New American Library, Plume, Tarcher, Philomel, Grosset & Dunlap, Puffin, and Frederick Warne.

Merged with Random House in 2013.

Ebooks and audio:
Currently: On September 25, 2013, [OverDrive announced](#) that it is once again able to offer Penguin frontlist and backlist titles to libraries and consortia. Previously: On [March 27, 2013](#), Penguin announced that, as of April 2, it will remove the six-month embargo on ebook titles licensed to libraries and instead offer new titles immediately after they are released in the consumer market. Penguin had limited its ebooks and digital audio titles available for library lending in November 2011. It terminated its contract with OverDrive in February 2012, but Penguin titles already in a library’s catalog at that time should remain available.

Library lending terms:
A one-year expiration date on ebooks licensed to libraries. (4/2/2013)

Library pricing:
Library pricing similar to what is offered to individual consumers. Pricing information not confirmed at this time. (4/2/2013)

Available through:
OverDrive, Bibliotheca Cloud Library, B&T Axis 360, Follett, MyiLibrary/Proquest, Recorded Books, MackinVia.

Note: EBSCO, Permabound, Odilo, and Bibliocommons to be added in January 2016. (11/18/2015)

Consortium Access:
Consortium licensing permitted for public, academic and school libraries. (3/3/2015)

Penguin Random House—[Random House](#)
Owned by [Bertelsmann AG](#) since 1998. Random House operates its own imprint and many others such as Alfred A. Knopf, Ballantine, Bantam, Dell, Pantheon, and Doubleday. Considered the largest trade book publisher.

Merged with Penguin July 2013.

Ebooks and audio:
Random House makes its complete frontlist and backlist available for library lending as well as digital audio titles.

Library lending terms:
All titles available under perpetual licensing. No loan limits or period of use limits.

Library pricing:
Varies, but is generally three to four times hardcover list price for the ebook.

Available through:
Overdrive, Bibliotheca Cloud Library, B&T Axis 360, MyiLibrary/Proquest, EBSCO, Permabound, Odilo, Bibliocommons, Follett, Recorded Books, MackinVia, (11/18/2015)

Consortium Access:
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[HarperCollins Publishers](#)
Owned by Rupert Murdoch’s [News Corporation](#). The firm’s publishing groups include Zondervan, HarperCollins General Books, HarperCollins Children’s Book Group, and HarperCollins UK and Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand publishing. HarperCollins has released more than 8,700 ebooks and 50 enhanced ebooks, according to its US website.

Ebooks and audio:
HarperCollins offers its complete ebook and audio catalog for library lending. In [February 2011](#), HarperCollins instituted a limit of 26 circulations after which the library must renew its license by buying the title again.

Library lending terms:
License must be renewed after 26 loans.

Library pricing:
Varies, but generally not more than the cost of hardcover equivalent and often much less.

Available through:
Overdrive, Bibliotheca Cloud Library, B&T, Bolinda, Booksource, Feedbooks, Gardners, Mackin, Odilo, One-Click Digital, and Perma-bound. (11/20/2015)

Consortium Access:
Consortium licensing permitted for public, academic and school libraries. (4/14/2015)

[Macmillan](#)
Owned by [Verlagsgruppe Georg von Holtzbrinck](#), of Stuttgart, Germany. American imprints include Farrar Straus and Giroux, Henry Holt & Company, W.H. Freeman and Worth Publishers, Palgrave Macmillan, Bedford/St. Martin’s, Picador, Roaring Brook Press, St. Martin’s Press, Tor Books, and Macmillan Higher Education.

Ebooks and audio:
Currently: On [July 29, 2014](#), Macmillan announced that its entire frontlist and backlist will be available under its library lending program. Previously: On [October 17, 2013](#), Macmillan announced that its entire backlist will be available to libraries. Frontlist titles are not available. Macmillan’s digital audio titles are available for library lending.

Library lending terms:
All titles are available for a 2 year/52 lend period (whichever comes first).

Library pricing:
Titles published less than 12 months ago: \$60.00. Titles published 12 months ago or more: \$40.00.

Available through:
OverDrive, B&T Axis 360, Bibliotheca Cloud Library, Recorded Books (One Click Digital), Odilo, Feedbooks (Europe and Canada) and Gardners (mostly UK) (11/20/2015)

Consortium Access:
Consortium licensing permitted as of [September 12, 2014](#). Public and academic libraries may license individually or through consortia. School libraries may license individually only. (2/11/2015)

Simon & Schuster

Simon & Schuster is a division of [CBS Corporation](#). Imprints include Simon & Schuster, Atria, Free Press, Gallery Books, Pocket Books, and Scribner. The children’s division includes Aladdin Paperbacks, Atheneum Books for Young Readers, Little Simon, Margaret K. McElderry Books, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, Simon Pulse, and Simon Spotlight.

Ebooks and audio:

Currently: On [November 20, 2014](#), Simon & Schuster announced that it would no longer require libraries to offer a “Buy It Now” button in order to license its ebooks for library lending. Previously: On [June 26, 2014](#), Simon & Schuster announced that it is opening access to its entire catalog both frontlist and backlist to all libraries and library consortia but with the requirement of a “Buy It Now” button.

Digital audio titles are generally available.

Library lending terms:

A one-year expiration date on ebooks licensed to libraries.

On [November 12, 2015](#), Simon & Schuster announced a pilot program with 550 titles with a special two-year license priced at 1.5 times the one-year price.

Library pricing:

Prices are generally more than the cost to a consumer, but less than the hardcover edition.

Available through:

OverDrive, Bibliotheca Cloud Library, Baker & Taylor Axis 360, Recorded Books, Odilo, and Bibliocommons (11/20/2015)

Consortium Access:

Consortium licensing permitted for public libraries only. No provision for licensing to academic libraries individually or in consortia. Licensing to individual school libraries only. (2/26/2015)

Hachette Book Group

Hachette Book Group is owned by Hachette Livre, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of [Lagardère](#). The company has numerous [publishing groups](#) but most of the ebooks and digital audiobooks produced by Hachette Digital are based primarily on books published by Grand Central Publishing, Little, Brown & Company, Orbit, Yen Press, Little Brown for Young Readers, FaithWords, and Center Street.

Ebooks and audio:

As of May 8, 2013, Hachette is making its [full catalog](#) of ebooks available for library lending.

Previously Hachette did not make its frontlist ebooks available for library lending, but its backlist up until publication dates of April 2010 were accessible.

Digital audiobooks are widely available.

Library lending terms:

New ebooks will be released simultaneously with the print edition and sold for an unlimited number of single-user-at-a-time circulations.

Library pricing:

Pricing is always at HBG’s sole discretion. HBG’s pricing is three times hardcover. (3/9/2015)

Available through:

OverDrive, Bibliotheca Cloud Library, Baker & Taylor Axis 360, Odilo, Mackin, Follett, EBSCO, OneClick Digital and Permabound. (11/20/2015)

Consortium Access:

Consortium licensing determined by HBG on a case-by-case basis using criteria including number of libraries, size of population and circulation numbers. Public, academic and school consortia can be considered. (3/9/2015)

Last updated November 20, 2015, by Robert C. Maier