Big Five Publishers and Library Lending

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 3 to 4 times hardcover list price for the ebook.


Consortium Access: Consortium licensing permitted for public, academic and school libraries.

Penguin Random House -- Penguin Group USA


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


Consortium Access: Consortium licensing permitted for public, academic and school libraries.

HarperCollins Publishers

Ebooks and audio: HarperCollins offers its complete ebook and audio catalog for library lending. In February 2011, HarperCollins instituted a limit of 28 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, 3M, B&T, Bolinda, Bookssource, Feedbacks, Gardens, Mackin, Oddo, One-Click Digital, and Perma-bound. (4/14/2015)

Consortium Access: Consortium licensing permitted for public, academic and school libraries.

Macmillan

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 12, 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, 3M Cloud Library, Recorded Books (One Click Digital), Oddo, Feedbooks (Europe and Canada) and Gardens (mostly UK) (3/25/2015)

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. (2/11/2015)

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, 2012 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, 3M Cloud Library, B&T Axis 360, Follett, Recorded Books, Kno, Mackin, Findaway (Audio-only), Booksource (3/3/2015)

Consortium Access: Consortium licensing permitted for public, academic and school libraries.

HarperCollins Publishers

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Available through: Overdrive, 3M, B&T, Bolinda, Bookssource, Feedbacks, Gardens, Mackin, Oddo, One-Click Digital, and Perma-bound. (4/14/2015)

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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, 3M Cloud Library, B&T Axis 360, Follett, Recorded Books, Kno, Mackin, Findaway (Audio-only), Booksource (3/3/2015)

Simon & Schuster


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.

Library pricing:
Prices are generally more than the cost to a consumer, but less than the hard cover edition.

Available through:
OverDrive, 3M Cloud Library, Baker & Taylor Axis 360, Recorded Books, Odilo, and Bibliocommons

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)

Last updated April 22, 2015 by Robert C. Maier

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 front list 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 3 times hardcover. (3/9/2015)

Available through:
OverDrive, 3M Cloud Library, Baker & Taylor Axis 360, Mackin, Follett, EBSCO, OneClick Digital and Permabound.

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)