**Call for Macmillan Publishers to Reverse Library eBook Embargo**

On November 1, 2019, Macmillan Publishers is scheduled to begin a controversial new licensing model for libraries. Under this model, a library may initially purchase only one copy of a new release eBook title, after which Macmillan imposes an eight week embargo. During the embargo the library cannot purchase additional copies of the title.

Millions of people now use digital content as their preferred or only access to books, music, and movies. Digital content is portable, accessible to people with print disabilities, available 24/7, and brokered by libraries to provide diverse options to our diverse communities. This embargo will likely create long lists of holds for newly released titles, and libraries will not have the opportunity to attempt to meet this demand until eight weeks have passed.

American Library Association (ALA) President Wanda Brown asserts, “Macmillan Publishers’ new model for library eBook lending will make it difficult for libraries to fulfill our central mission: ensuring access to information for all. Macmillan’s new policy is unacceptable.”

Public Library Association (PLA) President Ramiro Salazar states, “Access to digital content in libraries is more than a financial issue: it is an equity issue. We encourage Macmillan Publishers to reverse course before libraries and the people they serve are harmed.”

**The Oregon Library Association joins the ALA and PLA in denouncing this measure and calling for Macmillan Publishers to cancel the embargo and restore full access to its complete eBook catalog upon release to the public.**

Furthermore, the Oregon Library Association affirms the principles that:

* All published works must be available for libraries to purchase and lend to library users.
* Access to and use of eBooks must equitably balance the rights and privileges of readers, authors, and publishers.
* Digital content must be accessible to all people, regardless of physical or reading disability.
* Library patrons must be able to access digital content on the device of their choosing.
* Reading records must remain private in the digital age.

We encourage all readers to sign the American Library Association petition to stop Macmillan’s eBook embargo at [ebooksforall.org](https://ebooksforall.org/). Statements of concern can be sent to Macmillan Publishers CEO John Sargent:

Macmillan Publishers

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Sincerely,

Elaine Hirsch

Oregon Library Association President, 2019-2020

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