

# SPECIAL FEATURE

## School Libraries and eBooks

As Cory Doctorow says in the introduction to his new young adult book *For the Win*,

Loaning books has been around longer than any publisher on Earth, and it's a fine thing.

Lending is a significant part of what school libraries do. The issues around lending hardcopy publications are well known but with the increasing popularity of eBooks libraries are confronting new issues and expectations from booksellers and library users. Libraries that purchase audio books as downloads rather than lending an artefact such as a box of CDs face similar issues around copyright, user agreements and various means of delivering the downloaded files to borrowers.

### Readers

There is a vast array of eBook readers on the market.

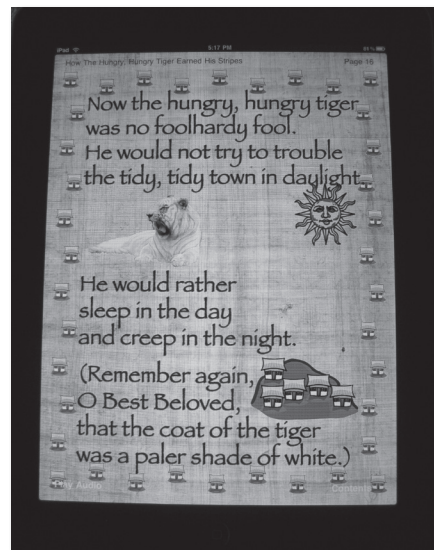
Some such as the Kindle and Kobo are mainly for reading eBooks, whilst others such as the iPad or smartphones are multipurpose devices that also act as eReaders. Libraries lending iPads will want to consider all of their uses as well as their potential as eReaders. It may be that libraries will want to lend iPads or iPod touch devices and eBook files to be read on those devices separately.

Readers are divided into those that use elnk technology and those, such as the iPad and smartphones, that use a backlit screen. Proponents of elnk devices argue that they are easier on the eyes giving readers an experience closer to that of reading a book. They are easier to read in sunlight than a backlit screen. Many eReaders using elnk technology provide black and white images only, although several providers plan to provide a colour elnk style reader.

Battery life is a significant issue for selecting eReaders. Battery life for the Kindle is measured in days, while devices such as the

iPad have a battery life better measured in hours. Where battery life is limited should libraries lending a device lend the charger as well?

Storage capacity of devices varies but most will hold many books. Will school libraries lend a single book on a device or a whole library? Suitability issues also arise in this context. Titles given restricted borrowing may need to be password protected or removed from devices lent to borrowers not entitled to borrow those titles.



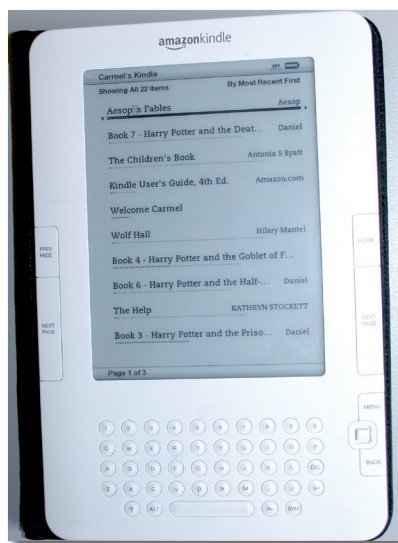
Flexibility is a significant issue for libraries. Some readers are restricted to a single format and locked-in to a single provider. This seems to be changing with Apple's iPad offering a Kindle application as well as its own iBooks and Amazon advertising that Word or pdf documents can be emailed to the Kindle to read there. The Kobo advertises itself as a device-neutral platform as readers can use a Kobo app with their computers, smartphones or tablets. However, there remains a variety of proprietary formats linked to specific readers. Increasingly the more flexible ePub and pdf formats are being offered, although pdfs lack the easy size readjustments of ePub and other formats for use with eReaders.

### Lending Devices vs Lending Files

Some libraries are experimenting with lending eReaders rather than having library users download files to their own devices either from the library servers or from the servers of the provider with which the library has a subscription. eBooks purchased by a library

and licensed for use with a particular eReader belonging to the library could not be downloaded to users' personal devices.

In choosing a reader, key considerations will be cost, ease of use and security. Some libraries lending Kindles deregister them before loaning to prevent borrowers from downloading additional books. There is some ambiguity in Amazon's *Terms of Service* as to whether lending of Kindles is permitted. If lending devices, a library's choice of reader may limit the file types that they will be able to use.



### Availability

The range of eBooks available differs from the range of hard copy books. Some out of print books are available as eBooks, particularly historical and older titles supplied through digitization projects such as Project Gutenberg and those of national and specialist libraries around the world. However, the full range of young adult titles and texts found in school libraries is yet to be available in eBook format to Australian purchasers.

### Sources

A number of organisations offer eBooks as free downloads. Most of these are either institutional books or older books now in the public domain.

Free eBook providers include:

- National Library of Australia (mainly historical works)
- Project Gutenberg (public domain materials)

- Baen Free Library
- International Children's Digital Library (children's books in a wide range of languages to read online, iPad and iPhone apps are now available)
- World Public Library (has membership and public sections, institutional subscriptions are available).
- Internet Archive
- International Music Score Library Project (does not guarantee that local copyright laws allow use, placing the onus on users to check)

Links to a number of sites offering free eBooks and audio books are available at [www.e-book.com.au/freebooks.htm](http://www.e-book.com.au/freebooks.htm).

It has been suggested that public domain eBooks, such as those available from Project Gutenberg Australia, could be downloaded and linked to a library catalogue or library intranet page for easier user access. It would be advisable to contact the eBook provider before doing this to confirm that it is permitted under their terms and conditions. World Public Library, specifically states in its *Terms and Conditions* that

Users are not permitted to download our ebooks, texts, and images in order to mount them on their own servers for public use or for use by a set of subscribers. Individuals and institutions can, of course, make a link to the copies files [sic] at World Public Library.

Purchasing eBook and audio files differs in significant ways from traditional book purchasing. Most sellers require purchasers to agree to terms and conditions before a purchase is made. These terms and conditions then govern how the files may be used.

An issue that this raises for libraries is that the borrower is not the person who has agreed to the terms of conditions. How then, if at all, are or should those terms and conditions be passed on to the borrower? In many cases the terms and conditions of purchase preclude lending or sharing the purchased files at all. School libraries face the added complication that most of their clientele are young people who may be excluded by the terms and conditions of purchase.

Products aimed at libraries include:

**Libwise** offered by Fictionwise.com claims to provide

a complete, turnkey eBook lending solution that integrates with your existing OPAC and provides a web site branded with your library name and logo. Fictionwise provides complete hosting and customer technical support, allowing your staff to concentrate on title selection. Libwise also provides complete administrative control and comprehensive reports for library staff, so they can fine tune how the site works and understand which titles are most in demand by their own patrons.

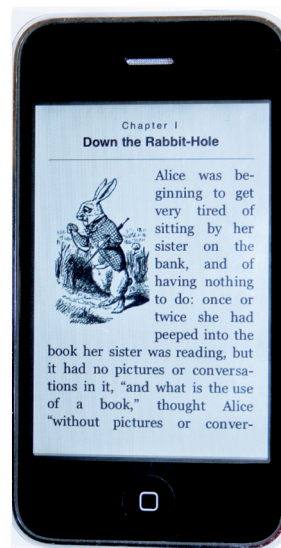
Ozebooks.com.au use this service to provide an ebook lending service. They offer free titles, which tend to be classics such as those titles available through services like Project Gutenberg, as well as other titles available through a subscription of \$19.95/year which is used to develop the collection. The registration process for Ozebooks requires users to enter a Mobipocket personal ID and have Mobipocket reading software installed on their PC or handheld device. The reading software is available as a free download. eBooks may be borrowed for between three and twenty one days after which the files are automatically 'returned' and become unreadable. This service seems to address the issue of lending by restricting use to a fixed number of simultaneous borrowers. Just as libraries may choose to hold multiple copies of popular items it seems likely that libraries might be able to pay for additional 'copies' of heavily used eBooks.

**NetLibrary** a division of EBSCO Publishing, offers

more than 200,000 eBooks, thousands of eAudiobooks, subject centers and the collection development resources

According to their site NetLibrary offers eBook content for reading on computers, Nooks, Sony Digital Readers and Cool-er readers, although it appears that these are pdf titles. Interestingly this provider also offers audio book titles for use with mp3 players and other portable devices. This seems to recognise the common issues with delivering

audio files and eBook files. The option of 'patron driven acquisition' offers the promise of developing a library-defined collection. This has some appeal given that libraries generally and especially school libraries traditionally develop specific collections to meet the needs of their clientele and may not wish to access the whole of a commercially offered eBook collection.



**Warner Books** offer a service to libraries for the provision of eBooks. The available eBooks are mainly non-fiction books for academic use. eBooks are available to purchase. According to Kurvink (2010)

Purchase enables unlimited and simultaneous use by any number of users.

However, it is not clear from the Warner Books website whether or not students may download books to read at home. Given that eBooks apparently continue to reside on the Warner servers it seems unlikely that this would be possible. Some effort has been made to match topics to curriculum although the collection seems somewhat American in its focus.

**Ebook Library** offer

an eBook lending platform, to deliver our rapidly expanding catalog [sic] of eBooks to academic and research libraries.

Their lending model allows multiple concurrent access either through the library or remote access. eBooks are in pdf format and can be read online or downloaded with

time limited expiration for off line reading. Payment is on a pay-per-use model. Whilst the model may suit some schools the content is aimed at academic and research libraries rather than schools.

**Overdrive** also offers a service for school libraries. This seems to consist of two main products:

*AudioBook Classroom* which offers access to 1001 audio book titles that can be listened to on computers on the school's network or downloaded to users' personal mp3 players.

*School Download Library* offers the ability for students to download eBooks and audio books from the school's website. These titles must be checked out using a student library card or ID before being downloaded to computers and then, if desired, transferred to mp3 players and eReaders. eBooks are in pdf or ePub format and audio books as wma or mp3 files. Overdrive continue to add to their list of compatible eReaders. For many titles each copy can be checked out by one student at a time. Additional copies of popular titles may be purchased to allow more students to borrow the title simultaneously.

The School Download Library Service is for remote use only (outside of the school). School Account and End Users may not download Digital Content to any school computers or devices.

Terms of Use for *School Download Library* and *AudioBook Classroom* include that material is provided to end users solely for their own personal, non-commercial use. Files 'disappear' from the user's computer at the end of the lending period and the Terms of Use state that:

End Users agree and acknowledge that at the end of the Lending Period all rights to access the Digital Content expire and terminate. At the end of the Lending Period, End Users agree to delete and/or destroy any and all copies of the Digital Content, including any copies that may have been transferred to, or created on portable devices, storage media, removable drives, CDs & DVDs.

According to the OverDrive website, schools can 'select from a catalog [sic] of more than

200,000 titles in virtually all subjects and customize the collection to meet your school's needs.' OverDrive is a hosted service with significant setup and hosting costs in addition to purchase costs for titles. A consortium-based approach may be the most affordable option for schools.

For all of the eBook and audio book download providers explored, current, high quality, young adult fiction titles are limited, as are Australian titles. This is attributable to issues of acquisition of Australian publishing rights and to the predominance of overseas providers. Australian audio book publisher Bolinda will open its digital download store later this year. It will be interesting to see if they will offer a solution for libraries or, like most providers, focus on personal use only.

Australian school libraries are clearly interested in offering eBooks and audio book files to their users but are faced with an industry heavily oriented towards personal purchase and use. Library services are available but restrict libraries to selecting from within the offerings of a particular provider. In contrast libraries can purchase hard copy books from a wide variety of sources to build their collection. It may be that a separation of acquisition from the processes for time-limiting files for lending will be possible in the future, allowing libraries the same freedom to purchase and lend eBooks as they now have with hard copy books. Alternatively, current models may develop and expand. eBooks have enormous potential for use in schools but in terms of building library collections and delivering them effectively to users it is still early days.

#### References

- Amazon (2010) Terms and Conditions retrieved from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)
- [www.bolinda.com](http://www.bolinda.com)
- Doctorow, Cory (2010) *For the Win* retrieved from [craphound.com](http://craphound.com)
- [www.ebilib.com](http://www.ebilib.com)
- Kurvink, Wilma. (2010) *The usefulness of an e-reader as a portable reader and connected device*. *Synergy* Vol 8, No 1, 2010.
- [www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6649814.html](http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6649814.html) *Mixed Answers to "Is it OK for a Library to Lend a Kindle?"*
- [www.libwise.com/fll/libinfo.htm](http://www.libwise.com/fll/libinfo.htm)
- [www.netlibrary.com](http://www.netlibrary.com)
- [www.nla.gov.au/pub/ebooks.html](http://www.nla.gov.au/pub/ebooks.html)
- [www.overdrive.com](http://www.overdrive.com)
- [www.warnerbooks.com.au](http://www.warnerbooks.com.au)

# SPECIAL FEATURE

## Fiction Focus eBook and Audio Files Survey

To support our feature on eBooks Fiction Focus ran a short survey on eBook and audio file lending in school libraries. So far forty eight libraries have responded. Our thanks go to everyone who took the time to complete a survey. Survey responses, along with ongoing online discussion in the school library community, reflect the high level of interest from school libraries in pursuing new ways to deliver books to library users. Interested readers may like to join the edna group 'e-books in teaching and learning'. If you would like to add your school library's information to our survey the Survey Monkey link is [www.surveymonkey.com/s/PJZPR7M](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PJZPR7M).

### eBooks

Our first question addressed the penetration of eBooks into school libraries. Just under 70% of respondents had no eBooks, while those who did have eBooks tended to have fairly small collections (less than 100 eBooks). For the 30% of school libraries who do have eBooks our survey result shows slightly more non-fiction than fiction eBooks being held but the sample of school libraries with eBooks is too small to draw any firm conclusion from this result. Figure 1 below shows the breakdown of responses.

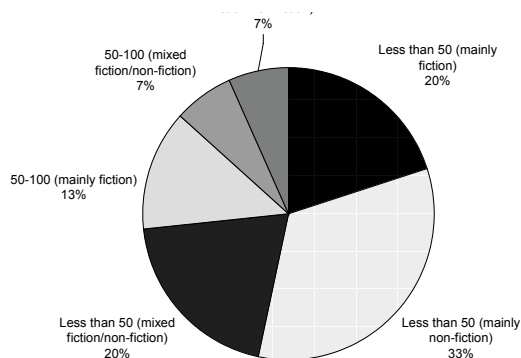


Figure 1: Number of eBooks held by fiction/non-fiction mix

Two thirds of those school libraries with eBooks used pdfs and one third used epub, suggesting a preference for open rather than device-specific formats. However, some schools also used mobi, pdb and azw files.

Survey respondents sourced their eBooks from Project Gutenberg, Amazon, Borders, Dymocks, Angus and Robertson, author websites, iTunes, ebooks.com, Macmillan, Warners, Ebook Library, Whitcoulls and free sites generally. The number of respondents was too small for meaningful analysis of the spread between suppliers.

Libraries with eBooks were almost evenly divided between those that used special library or corporate accounts to purchase eBooks, those who used only free materials not requiring an account to download and those who used regular accounts to access eBooks (see figure 2).

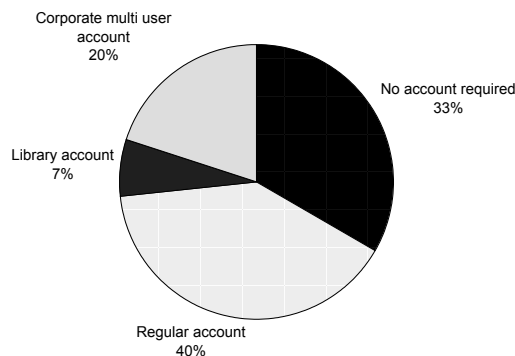


Figure 2: Types of accounts used by school libraries to acquire eBooks.

A little over half the school libraries responding to our survey lend eBooks as a download. Others lend files on a USB thumb drive or eReader. Figure 3 below shows the options used by the responding libraries.

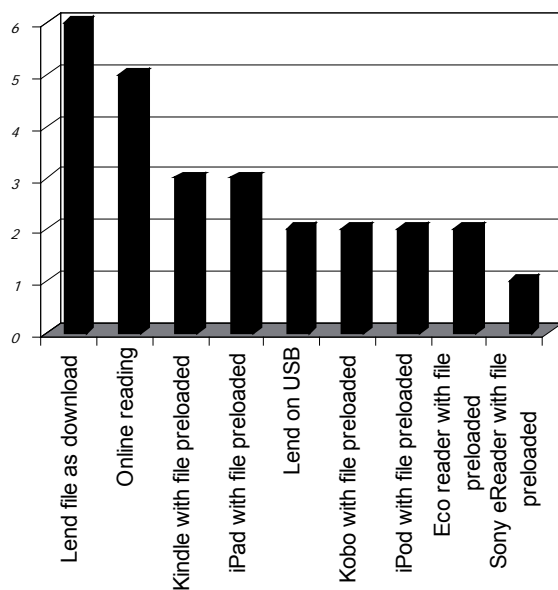


Figure 3: Method for lending eBooks

Just over half of our respondents take no steps to discourage copying of eBook files that they loan. The remaining respondents used notices at point of borrowing or attached to devices to be loaned. Two responding libraries use agreements to which borrowers must consent before borrowing and three libraries loaned copy-protected files.

### Audio Book Files

Just over 70% of school libraries who responded to our survey are not lending audio books as files. As with eBooks the holdings of audio files tended to be relatively small. Those who did lend audio books as files all had fewer than 70 audio books available for loan.

Respondents sourced their audio books from iTunes, Amazon, Audible, Audio Books Direct, Bolinda, Louis Braille and Riverbend books. A quarter of these libraries used account types designed for libraries to purchase their audio book files, whilst three quarters used regular accounts. Libraries were evenly divided between those who lend audio files as a download or on USB thumb drives and those who lend files preloaded on mp3 players such as the iPod (one school who preload to iPads was also included in this group). One school used the Playaway system where

libraries can purchase and lend a device preloaded with an audiobook title. According to the Playaway site these devices can be circulated over 1000 times per title.

Overall, whilst limited, our survey suggests that providers and school libraries are still coming to terms with how audio and eBook files can be purchased and loaned in ways which are fair to both patrons and copyright holders. Many of the existing models are aimed at the individual purchaser, however school libraries are clearly looking for ways to provide their users with access to books in these formats.

### More on eBooks

Teachers and teacher librarians are actively engaged in exploring the opportunities offered by eBooks. There has been considerable discussion about eBooks, their use in teaching and learning and the issues that they present for school libraries on both the WATLnet and OZTLnet lists. A group on 'e-books in teaching and learning' is operating at edna and the New Zealand eReaders Taskforce has a wiki [<http://nzert.wikispaces.com>].

The recent WASLA Roadshow held at Edith Cowan University on 31 July 2010 included a session on *eBooks and Readers*. WASLA members can view the slides from this session in the members only area of the WASLA website. The AISWA professional development on *eBooks in Australia* on 18 August 2010 was presented by Kathryn Greenhill who has included links to the slideset, handout and a movie of her presenting on her blog *Librarians Matter* [<http://librariansmatter.com/blog>]. Topics covered in Kathryn's presentation were:

- History
- Print vs audio vs ebook
- Reading devices
- Platforms and software
- Formats
- Content
- Ebooks in libraries
- Pushing it – ebooks beyond 2D text

## Feature

## eBooks and Copyright

eBooks are digitised versions of paper books (pBooks), i.e. they are computer files. In relation to copyright eBooks differ from pBooks in that they usually come with either an End User Licence Agreement (EULA) or Terms and Conditions which you have to agree to before you can use/access the electronic file.

The terms and conditions spell out who can access the book, if it may be lent, and whether or not it can be copied. By clicking on the button to 'accept' you are legally obliged to abide by these conditions. Generally these terms and conditions allow for the purchaser to use the eBook for personal or domestic use only. This does not allow educational use. The terms and conditions vary so it is important to read each one and maybe print each one off to store so they can be referred to later.

If you wish to purchase an eBook for a school library you will need to ensure that the licence (terms and conditions) allow for the book to be used in a school, and also lent out, otherwise you will need to negotiate a site licence with a publisher.

Some eBooks may have technological protection measures (TPM) built in to prevent the copying of the material. It is a criminal offence in Australia to overcome or remove these TPMs.

You are able to print off up to 10% or one chapter of an eBook for each class under the Statutory Licence provisions, just like you are able to do with a pBook.

A common misconception is that it is Australian publishers who are restricting access to eBooks that are available to

readers in other countries; but this isn't really the case. Australian booksellers cannot sell eBooks for which the copyright holder (usually the author) has not explicitly granted the publisher rights to sell in Australia, and there are few global books. A pBook will have a different publisher in each territory around the world. It may be re-edited for local language and will almost certainly have a different cover design (which is copyright to the artist) and format to suit each market. Even the most recognisable of international bestsellers will often be published by a different company in each territory (for example, Stieg Larsson's *Millenium Trilogy* is published by Quercus in United Kingdom, and that edition is distributed by Murdoch Books in Australia, but Random House is Larsson's publisher in the United States). In a borderless online world, you can begin to see the problem: if an Australian customer downloads an eBook from Amazon.com in the United States, which publisher receives the revenue?

Additionally, an author may have signed over their digital rights exclusively to one publisher who may then only deal with one eBook provider such as Amazon who provide eBooks for the Kindle. The author having given exclusive rights to one company would have been unable to renegotiate when Apple released their platform in the form of the iPad. Things can get very complicated in eBook land!

*Caroline Brasnett*  
*Principal Consultant Intellectual Property & Copyright*  
*WestOne Services*  
*Department of Training and Workforce Development*  
[westone.ipdoe@dtwd.wa.gov.au](mailto:westone.ipdoe@dtwd.wa.gov.au)