



CITY OF RICHLAND

Richland Public Library

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July 29, 2019

Macmillan Publishers
Attn: Mr. John Sargent, CEO
120 Broadway Street
New York, NY 10271

Dear Mr. Sargent:

Libraries across Washington State value our relationships with publishers as we serve the public by providing access to books, which are invaluable sources of information and experiences. E-books are perhaps the most democratic of publisher and library materials as they are accessible to those who read unassisted as well as those with reading disabilities.

Macmillan Publishers' new e-book lending model is at variance with our common goal of promoting reading as a fundamental component of learning, education, research, growth, and opportunity, and as a legitimate leisure time activity, while simultaneously creating a population of lifelong consumers.

Under Macmillan's new model, a library may purchase one copy of a newly released title in e-book format, after which the publisher will not allow the library to purchase additional copies for eight weeks.

One might assume that the absence of newly released e-books will drive library patrons to purchase e-books; however, public libraries in Washington State have quantifiable data that the opposite is true. Many of our patrons preview e-books to determine if they will purchase either a single book or an entire book series. Librarians can tell you how often we hear such comments from patrons as "We thought we'd check out the e-book to see if he likes it before we buy the whole series."

Indeed, libraries provide maximum exposure for publishers to readers from all income brackets, and as research indicates, word of mouth is a powerful marketing tool. A patron who checks out an e-book and enjoys it is very likely to recommend that book to friends and family members, many of whom will then purchase it.

Although Washington libraries object to Macmillan Publishers' decision to embargo the purchase of their newly released e-books, we will continue our mission of educating the public and will be certain to communicate your new e-lending model with patrons.

We look forward to continuing to work with you, and we hope that you will reconsider your decision.

Sincerely,

Ruth Barefoot, Director
Anacortes Public Library

Leslie Campbell Hime, Library Manager
Richland Public Library

Carol Blix, Librarian
Cathlamet Public Library

Andrew Chanse, Executive Director
Spokane Public Library

Melody Eisler, Library Director
City of Port Townsend Public Library

Rhonda Gould, Executive Director
Walla Walla County Rural Library District

Lillian Heytvelt, Library Director
Denny Ashby Library

Cheryl Heywood, Library Director
Timberland Regional Library

Kim Hixson, Executive Director
Yakima Valley Libraries

Isaac Huffman, Library Director
Mount Vernon City Library

Margaret Jakubcin, Library Director
North Olympic Library System

Rebecca Judd, Library Director
Bellingham Public Library

Kristie Kirkpatrick, Director
Whitman County Rural Library District

Kate Larsen, Library Director
Tacoma Public Library

Tamara Meredith, Library Director
Jefferson County Rural Library District

Joy Neal, Library Director
La Conner Regional Library

Laurie Orton, Library Director
San Juan Island Library

Christine Perkins, Executive Director
Whatcom County Library System

Jocelyn Redel, Director of Library Services
Liberty Lake Municipal Library

Patrick Roewe, Executive Director
Spokane County Library District

Patty Ross, Library Director
Puyallup Public Library

Amelia Shelley, Executive Director
Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries

Amanda Six, Library Director
Libraries of Stevens County

Chris Skaugset, Library Director
Longview Public Library

Marcellus Turner, Executive Director
Seattle Public Library

Barbara Walters, Executive Director
North Central Washington Libraries

Mandy Walters, Director
Pend Oreille County Library District

Jeanne Williams, Library Director
Central Skagit Library District

Josephine Yaba Camarillo, Library Director
Ellensburg Public Library

Brinnon School District

City of Port Townsend Public Library

H.W. McCurdy Library

Jefferson County Rural Library District

Port Townsend School District

Quilcene School District