

CULC/CBUC RESPONSE TO MACMILLAN LETTER

On October 30, 2019 Macmillan Publishers CEO John Sargent directly addressed librarians for the first time about the planned November 1 embargo on library eBook purchases. Because of this embargo, not only will Macmillan limit the public's access to popular eBooks but, even more significantly, create a barrier for customers who cannot afford to purchase digital content, and for those who rely on their public library for accessing information and for discovery of new authors and titles.

The Canadian Urban Libraries Council / Conseil des Bibliothèques Urbaines du Canada (CULC/CBUC) agrees with the American Library Association's (ALA) statement that asserts:

- Public Libraries across North America have consistently opposed any effort to delay or deny library access to digital content. Macmillan Publishers is the only multinational publisher that perceives a business need to limit library purchases. Macmillan has failed to provide the data or analysis that demonstrates that library lending undermines book sales.
- Providing perpetual access and reducing the price for a single copy is important to ensuring all people have access to the world's knowledge through our nation's libraries, regardless of format. Libraries in communities of all sizes deserve the right to fair prices and terms consistent with consumer access.
- Restricting access to authors' works through libraries limits discovery, choice, literacy, and the love of reading. Libraries are committed to a vibrant ecosystem that enables authors to find their audiences and allows readers to explore the broadest range of materials. It also fails to recognize the key role that libraries play in the discovery of content, which has a direct positive impact publisher retail sales. We reject simple binary solutions in a complex and dynamic environment and urge Macmillan to work harder with us to find fair and equitable paths forward.
- Delaying or denying access to content hurts libraries and communities. An embargo is the wrong answer to an unsubstantiated problem that no other major publisher seems to face.

In response to Macmillan's action, the Canadian Urban Libraries Council / Conseil des Bibliothèques Urbaines du Canada (CULC/CBUC), Urban Libraries Council (ULC), American Library Association (ALA), public library leaders, and other key stakeholders have joined together in opposition of this policy change. Canadian Urban Libraries Associations, like the ALA, are compelled to explore legislative solutions with Canadian government entities to ensure that access to information is protected. Libraries are a critical connector between authors and readers, and we fundamentally believe in access to books, information and ideas.

Find more information at ebooksforall.org. Follow the conversation at [#eBooksForAll](https://twitter.com/eBooksForAll).