

# WPLC BOARD & STEERING MONTHLY UPDATE

August 2019

Special Board & Steering  
Combined Issue

Wisconsin Public Library Consortium

## PUBLISHER CHANGES QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

There have been many recent changes made by publishers to library purchasing models. This will be a topic at the upcoming Round Table discussion of the Board and Steering. There will also be more information on this topic at the Ebook and Publisher National Landscape Webinar on September 16<sup>th</sup>. To help in preparation of these discussions, below are some frequently asked questions regarding this topic.

### ***What's happening with publishers?***

Over the last couple of months, multiple publishers have changed their library purchasing models for ebooks and digital audiobooks. The result of this change is more expensive, more limited access. The most egregious change comes from Macmillan. After November 1<sup>st</sup>, we will only be able to purchase one copy of the title when it is released. We can have that one copy in perpetuity. The title will then not be available for us to purchase for 8 weeks, after which time we will be able to purchase metered access only.

### ***Why is this happening?***

It's unclear, though some are speculating that these decisions are being driven by Amazon.

### ***Which publishers are doing what?***

Hachette: Changed from perpetual ownership of copies to two-year metered access only for ebooks and audiobooks. Simon & Schuster: Changed from one-year metered to two-year metered and increased prices for ebooks and audiobooks. Macmillan: Able to purchase one copy for perpetual access at publication. 8 weeks after publication, can purchase two-year metered access copies.

### ***What does this mean for WPLC?***

It means that titles may cost more and/or may not be available immediately upon publication.

### ***Well, what are we going to do about it?***

We're working on that. We want a response that will be effective and coordinated with others like OverDrive and other big OverDrive purchasers. The Selection Committee discussed the possibility of spending less money with Macmillan. We're running some reports for their consideration. We're thinking about how to utilize our virtual patron focus group (over 3500 patrons who have agreed to help develop the digital library). We're also talking with OverDrive, BiblioBoard, and other libraries to see what efforts we can support and enhance.

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

**Ebook & Publisher National  
Landscape Webinar**  
September 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm

**WPLC Data Webinar**  
September 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am

**WPLC Round Table**  
October 25<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
at Portage County Public Library