

# Strathcona County Library

## Equitable Public Access to E-Books and E-Audiobooks

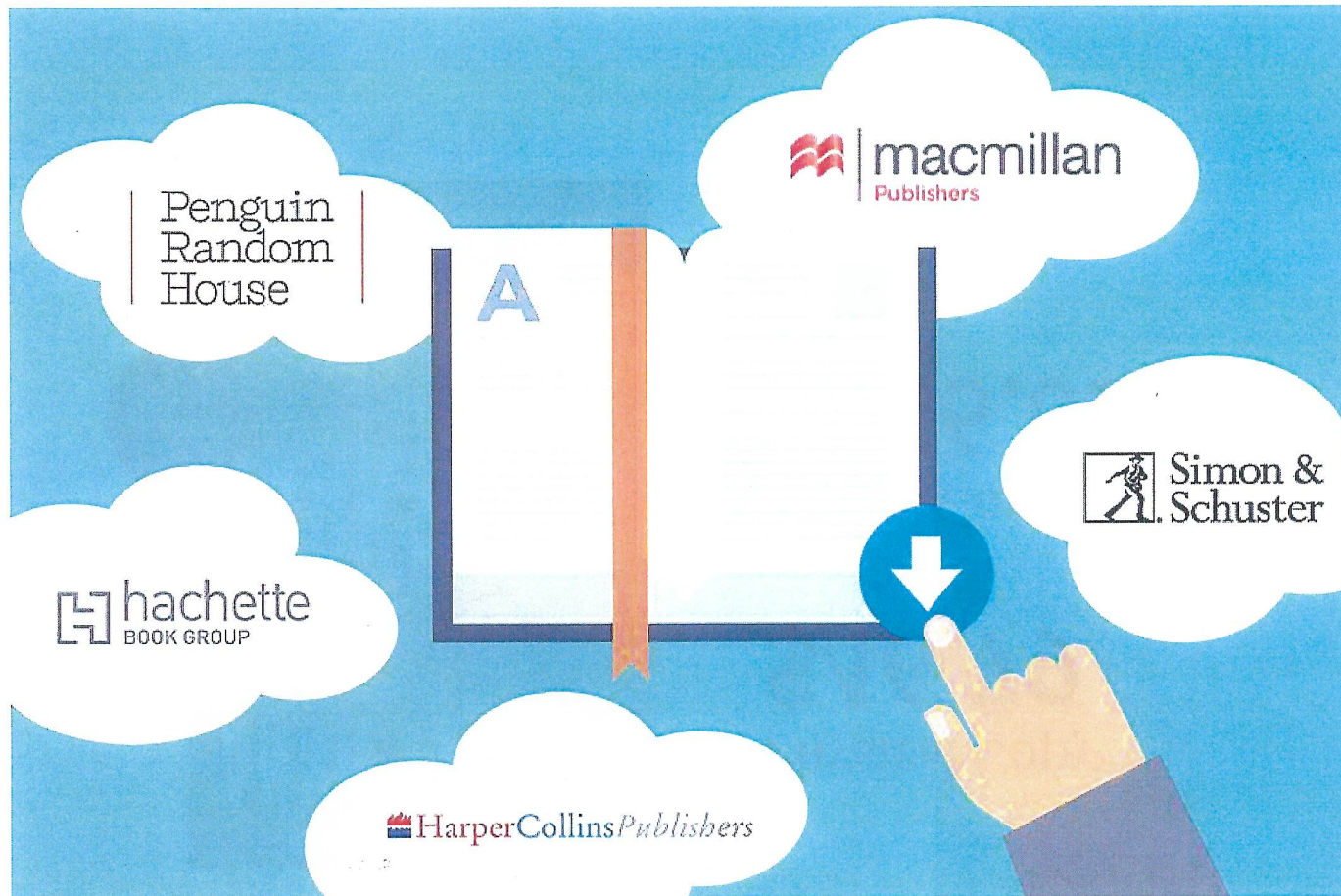
Sharon Siga, CEO  
Strathcona County Library



Until Recently, digital collections  
in Canadian public libraries  
were stable, with ongoing challenges

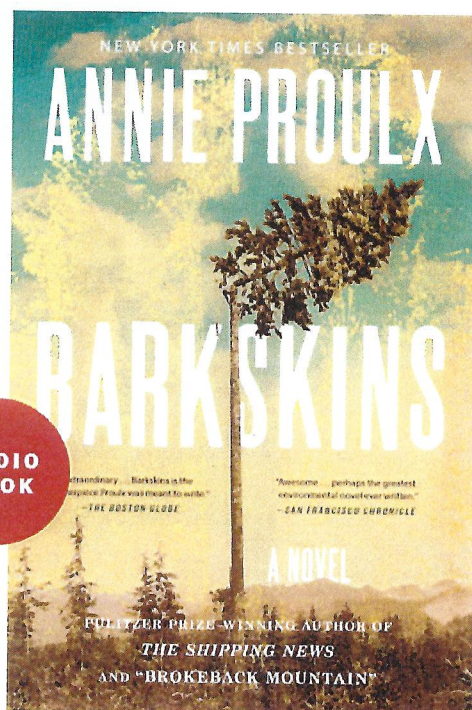


## Multinational Publishers





Simon & Schuster Canada



Physical Copy

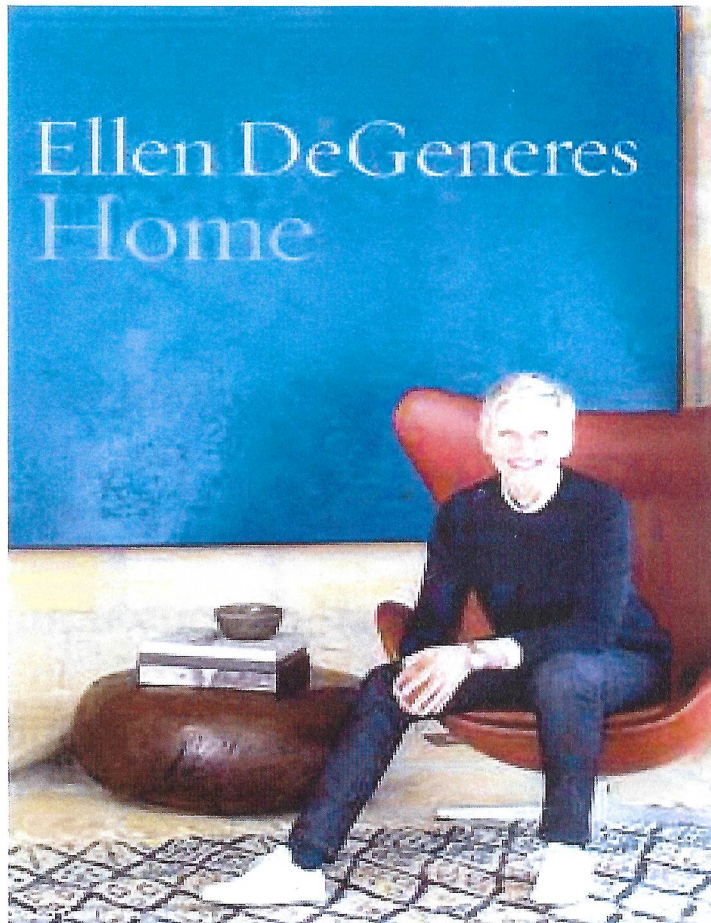
**\$46.79**

Digital Copy

**\$156.03**



# THE PRICE GAP



WHAT YOU PAY

**\$16.99**

WHAT LIBRARIES PAY

**\$146.00**





## Recent Changes

1. **Penguin Random House - move from perpetual to a two year license**
2. **Simon and Schuster - move from one year to two year license**
3. **Hachette - move from perpetual to a two year license**
4. **Macmillan - 8 week embargo on new titles for public libraries after 1st copy**



## Impacts

- **Decreased buying power**
- **Decreased access to digital resources**
- **Threat to democratic right of access to information for all citizens**



## **Impacts: Summary**

- **Loss of perpetual access**
- **Unreasonably high prices**
- **No flexible purchase models**
- **Loss of access to content**





## Impacts : Embargoes

“ Public libraries would provide facilities for self-improvement through books and reading for all classes, not just those who were wealthy enough to afford their own private libraries and collections.

UK Public Library Act 1850

A library outranks any one thing a community can do to benefit its people.  
It is a never failing spring in the desert.

”

Andrew Carnegie



## Timeline of Activities



**CULC/CBUC and Digital Content Working Group continue to engage and keep communication lines open with Publishers.**

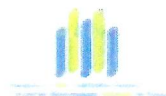


## **Libraries and the services they provide:**

- **support an engaged and strong community**
- **bridge digital divides**
- **provide equitable access for the print disabled**







### Statement on Equitable Public Access to E-Books

Public libraries have long been a source of information to provide access to knowledge and learning for public citizens, including children and the elderly, and are increasingly high priority areas for funding. The public library has a role to play in a world where digital technology is becoming a more significant part of our lives. Public libraries will be expected to fulfil their role as a source of learning, education, and information. These expectations will be met through the provision of a variety of services, including the provision of e-books, to ensure knowledge and information access to all citizens, including youth, people living with disabilities and those with other financial needs.

Public libraries play an essential role in ensuring the young and the elderly are not left behind in the digital age. Public libraries are the only place where everyone can access the internet, and where everyone can learn. Public libraries are also a source of information and knowledge, and are an important part of our lives. Public libraries are also a source of information and knowledge, and are an important part of our lives. Public libraries are also a source of information and knowledge, and are an important part of our lives.

As a public library, we are committed to providing and supporting the needs of our citizens, and we are committed to providing and supporting the needs of our citizens.

- Provide equal access to knowledge and information, and ensure that all citizens have access to the internet, and that all citizens have access to the internet.
- Support lifelong learning and foster ongoing, positive, and meaningful relationships with our citizens.
- Provide community members with the right, information, and resources to make their lives better, including access to the internet, and to the internet.
- Provide access to the internet, and to the internet, and to the internet, and to the internet.

Our goal is to ensure that all citizens have the same access to the internet, and to the internet, and to the internet, and to the internet.

Issue: October 2019

Mayor of Strathcona

