

E-Book Working Group: Advocacy for Public Library Access to E-Books

Date:	February 25, 2013
To:	Toronto Public Library Board
From:	E-Book Working Group

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to obtain the Toronto Public Library Board's approval of a recommendation of the Board's E-Book Working Group concerning the preparation of a draft access to e-books outreach strategy and a further report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The E-Book Working Group recommends that the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. requests that Library staff prepare a draft outreach strategy that can be implemented quickly, if necessary, to "inform the public about the restrictions public libraries face in making e-content available for borrowing", and the potential cost to the Library, which includes, among any other ideas staff may have:
 - a. a petition on the Library website;
 - b. a poster and "fact sheet" outlining the problem, and the potential cost and collection of quality consequences for the Library;
 - c. a media outreach strategy;
2. requests that Library staff prepare a report outlining what "reasonable terms" may mean, including but not limited to:
 - a. limiting the number of uses to a number similar to the number of uses typical for a normal book;
 - b. delayed, but unrestricted, access to e-content; and
 - c. a library premium more manageable than the 300% imposed by some publishers.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial impacts resulting from this report beyond what has already been approved in the current year's budgets.

The Director, Finance and Treasurer has reviewed this financial impact statement and is in agreement with it.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on November 29, 2012, the Board considered the *E-Books in Public Libraries* report and approved the following:

1. *endorses an advocacy strategy that:*
 - a) *encourages Canadian and multinational publishers to sell e-content to public libraries under reasonable terms;*
 - b) *informs the public about the restrictions public libraries face in making e-content available for borrowing; and*
2. *authorizes and directs appropriate Library staff to take the necessary action to give effect thereto;*
3. *strikes an E-Book Working Group, to include any Board members who express an interest, to make further recommendations on strategies to advance Recommendations 1a and b.*

At its February 12, 2013 meeting, the E-Book Working Group considered the *Advocacy for Public Library Access to E-Books* report and adopted the recommendation in this report for consideration by the Library Board.

COMMENTS

The *Advocacy for Public Library Access to E-Books* report considered at the February 12th meeting of the Board's E-Book Working Group is provided as Attachment 1.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Jane Pyper
City Librarian

ATTACHMENT

Appendix 1: *Advocacy for Public Library Access to E-Books* report to the February 12, 2013 E-Book Working Group meeting