



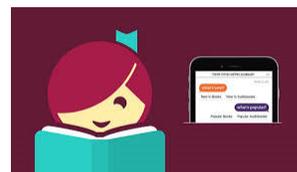
Impact of Library Digital Book Pricing

Jennifer Reichert Simpson
Library Director

Digital Books at Dakota County Library



- The library's digital book provider is Overdrive that provides the Libby App.
- It is a shared collection with all 8 metro library systems through MELSA, the Twin Cities Metro Regional Library System.
- Dakota County cardholders get prioritized for Dakota County purchased items.



Digital Books at Dakota County Library



- 31% of the library's over 5.8 million checkouts are e-books or digital audiobooks in 2025.
- Libby checkouts increased by 13% and unique users of Libby increased by 12% from 2024 to 2025.
- 33% of the books and materials budget is allocated to digital books.
- Individuals wait 48 days to get a digital book vs. 16 days for a print title.



Most Library Digital Books are Leased

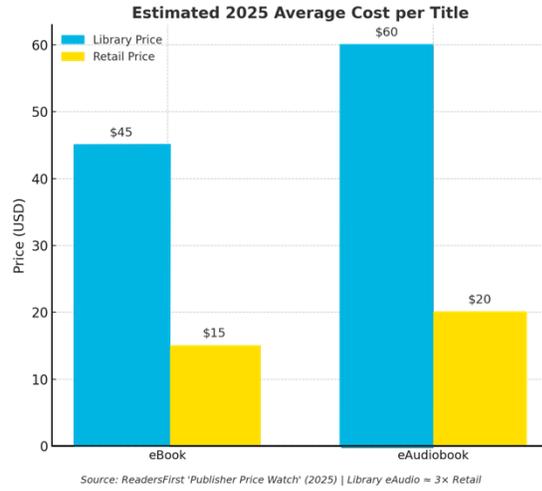


- Public Libraries typically lease e-books and digital audiobooks through an aggregator, such as Overdrive that provides the Libby app.
- Licenses typically have an expiration date of two years or 26 check-outs. After one of these conditions is met, the title disappears.
- When an option to buy a digital book is available, it's often 2-3 times the cost of leasing the book.

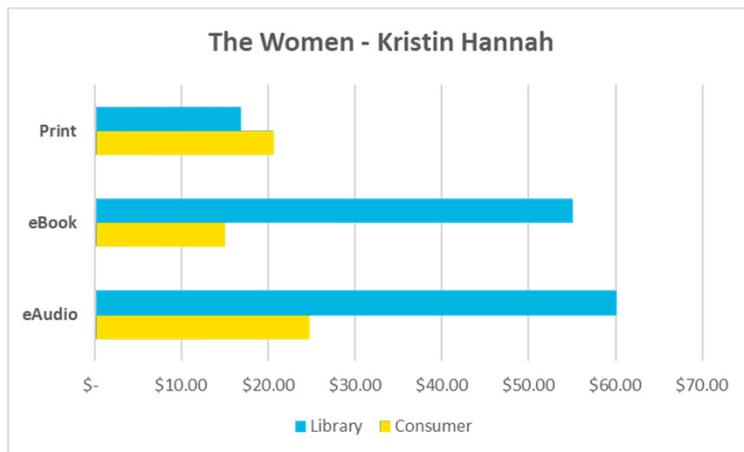
High Cost of Digital Books



Libraries pay three to four times what a consumer pays for the same e-book or digital audiobook.



Consumer vs. Library Cost



U.S. v. Apple Inc.

Hachette v. Internet Archive

- Affirmed publishers control terms.
- Leasing licenses became standard, and prices increased in the following years.

Current Response

Minnesota Library Association and Urban Libraries Council are seeking legislative discussions and conversations with the 5 big publishers.

Connecticut recently passed statutory provisions that prohibit publicly funded libraries from entering into license agreements that contain certain terms, such as prohibiting time limits on licensing. Bill only takes effect when another state or states with a combined population of 7 million adopt similar laws.

Thank you

Questions & Discussion