

DRAFT

Open statement concerning eBooks

Europe's libraries have a long-standing and essential part to play in delivering on people's rights to information, education, research and culture that are essential to the maintenance of free democracies. They support a healthy civic and community life, underpin science and innovation, and ensure the safeguarding of the memory of the world. Reflecting their societal and economic importance, their function and role is enshrined in differing bodies of legislation.

Information users are now living in an increasingly connected world, and the needs of society and industry are best served by ensuring that libraries can provide them with access to the widest possible range of physical and digital materials, including e-books.

We have, however, become very concerned that current modalities of operation, licensing and broader markets for eBooks are subverting the ability of libraries to perform their traditional and essential functions.

It is essential to ensure that eBook markets work in ways that allow libraries to do their job and to fulfil their public interest responsibilities, within a clear legal framework. Working alternatives that currently exist rely on voluntary action by publishers, and do not provide full access. Government action is therefore necessary on all three of the following fronts:

- 1. Guarantees in law that libraries shall be able to acquire, preserve and electronically lend digitised analogue and born-digital works, such as eBooks, on the same basis as they lend physical works¹. This will enable more constructive negotiations between libraries and rightholders.*
- 2. Work to ensure that eLending platforms operate in ways that work best for libraries, their users and authors.*
- 3. Aside from copyright reform and market regulation, support further investigation into the dynamics of eBook markets and their impacts on the achievement of public interest goals. This will also serve to inform wider cultural, education and research policies.*

Affirmative action in the above areas will, collectively, support a lasting transition towards a sustainable and inclusive market model for eBooks which delivers on their potential to support access to research, education and culture, and so more democratic and inclusive societies.

The Swedish Library Association

Association of Greek Librarians and Information Scientists

Association of Hungarian Librarians

¹ This includes, usually for public libraries, payment of public lending rights (PLR) in line with appropriate legislation.

AIB - Associazione Italiana Biblioteche
 Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic
 BAD - Portuguese Association of Librarians, Archivists, Information and Documentation Professionals
 Bulgarian Library and Information Association
 Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), UK
 EBLIDA - European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations
 FESABID - Spanish Federation of Library, Archive and Museum Associations
 Finnish Library Association
 IFLA
 Library Association of Ireland
 Lithuanian Librarians Association
 VVBAD - Flemish Association of Librarians, Archivists and Documentalists
 Digital Library Association of Armenia
 The Library Association of Latvia
 Serbian Library Association

BY COUNTRY

<i>Armenia</i>	- Digital Library Association of Armenia
<i>Belgium</i>	- VVBAD - Flemish Association of Librarians, Archivists and Documentalists
<i>Bulgaria</i>	- Bulgarian Library and Information Association
<i>Czechia</i>	- Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic
<i>Finland</i>	- Finnish Library Association
<i>Greece</i>	- Association of Greek Librarians and Information Scientists
<i>Hungary</i>	- Association of Hungarian Librarians
<i>Ireland</i>	- Library Association of Ireland
<i>Italy</i>	- AIB - Associazione Italiana Biblioteche
<i>Latvia</i>	- The Library Association of Latvia
<i>Lithuania</i>	- Lithuanian Librarians Association
<i>Portugal</i>	- BAD - Portuguese Association of Librarians, Archivists, Information and Documentation Professionals
<i>Serbia</i>	- Serbian Library Association
<i>Spain</i>	- FESABID - Spanish Federation of Library, Archive and Museum Associations
<i>Sweden</i>	- The Swedish Library Association
<i>UK</i>	- Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)
<i>EU</i>	- EBLIDA - European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations
<i>International</i>	- IFLA

ALPHABETICAL

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The Swedish Library Association
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Relevant resources

EBLIDA Overview of eLending in Europe: <http://www.eblida.org/publications/e-lending.html>