

From: dawils[REDACTED] [mailto:dawils[REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 4:50 PM
To: Read, John
Subject: ebook pricing for libraries

Publishers do not need to charge libraries or anyone else higher prices for e-book versions of their books. The book is already in electronic format when it is sent to the printers. Any additional formatting to put it in the required e-version would be of negligible cost.

My library system subscribes to Overdrive to service our e-book patrons. I don't understand the enmity publishers have towards libraries. Libraries promote and distribute their products to library patrons. Our patrons are potential customers for these publishers. Patrons check out e-books from libraries, try them out, and may in turn purchase e-books.

Publishers don't make any friends by charging libraries triple prices for e-book titles. Charging 10% or so over the print cover price may be reasonable if the e-book publishers granted permission to the e-service providers (Overdrive) to allow more than 26 check outs per title without purchasing the title again. Libraries usually purchase several copies of the regular print, a large print version, and an audio version of a title. So, why does an e-book need to be overly priced?

The publishers save money on printing and distributing costs with e-books. Does the author get a higher percentage royalty on e-books, because it costs less to produce?

Libraries want publishers to make money. But libraries have shrinking budgets and have to make wise purchase choices. There is room for better negotiating.

Sincerely,
Danna K. Wilson, Branch Librarian in Texas
1236 Chevy Chase Dr
Angleton, TX 77515
979-849-5329

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