

From: Chance Finegan [mailto:cnfineg[REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 9:43 AM
To: Read, John
Subject: DOJ Action Against Publishing Houses/E-Books

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Mr. John Read
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12 June 2012

Mr. Read:

This is in reference to the United States Department of Justice's lawsuit against several major book publishing houses regarding alleged price-fixing of electronic books.

I became deeply disappointed with the Department of Justice when I learned of the lawsuit. Several retailers, notably Amazon.com, sell electronic books as loss-leaders. While there is nothing wrong with selling an item as a loss-leader, Amazon.com is doing so at such a scale that literature is being devalued. People are being trained to pay what Amazon.com sells literature at, not at what the rest of the market dictates is a fair price.. Publishers cannot compete with Amazon.com; neither can local booksellers.

Books cost money to produce. Electronic books cost money to produce. The author's work is not free. The editor's work is not free. The publicist's work is not free. The publisher's work is not free. If this lawsuit moves forward, and Amazon.com is given free

reign to continue to sell electronic books as loss-leaders, it will only lower the price of literature until no-one except Amazon.com can afford to publish and distribute it. Then, only people with the money to purchase a Kindle e-reader will be able to access books.

This issue gets to the very core of American business. America was built on competition, on a fair marketplace. Allowing Amazon.com to undercut publishing houses (tax-free, mind you) is hardly the definition of fair. Publishers and other booksellers must be able to compete with Amazon.com's predatory sales practices. This lawsuit is a disgrace and I hope the Department of Justice does not pursue it further.

Sincerely,

Chance N. Finegan, Certified Interpretive Guide

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