

Dear Patrons,

The San Antonio Public Library is committed to providing access to Library resources. When the Library learned of a planned business change by one of the publishers, I felt compelled to share with you.

Macmillan Publishing (one of the top five publishers) recently announced intent to change how their new eBooks will be made available to public libraries and to you. Macmillan informed the library community that effective November 1, libraries regardless of size, will only be able to buy one copy of any new Macmillan release. Libraries will have to wait eight weeks before they can buy additional copies of titles. This is a serious issue that will limit accessibility of new release titles for your use.

In response to Macmillan's action, American Library Association (ALA), Public Library Association (PLA), Urban Libraries Council (ULC) public library leaders and other key library stakeholder groups have joined together in opposition of Macmillan's policy change.

To put the issue into perspective, through this embargo, Macmillan will not only limit the public's access to popular books, it creates a barrier to access for those who cannot afford to purchase every eBook they wish to read and those readers who rely on San Antonio Public Library for access. This particularly hurts people with visual or learning disabilities who may use or rely eBooks for the ease of changing the print size, type of font, and line spacing.

We are asking all of our library patrons and readers to stand up for libraries' ability to buy and lend the digital content they expect to find at our libraries. Again, I remind you to sign the petition to voice your opposition.

Thank you all for continuing to support San Antonio Public Library. We will continue to stand up for your right to access information, including newly released eBooks. Together, we can make #eBooksForAll campaign successful in reversing the policy of Macmillan Publishing.



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