



MINNESOTA LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

PUBLIC LIBRARY EBOOK LICENSING

The Minnesota Library Association (MLA) is pursuing legislation to adjust restrictive eBook and digital audiobook licensing contracts. Current terms impose significant financial burdens and access limitations on public libraries, compromising their ability to serve all Minnesota residents.

THE PROBLEM

High Costs and Restrictive Terms

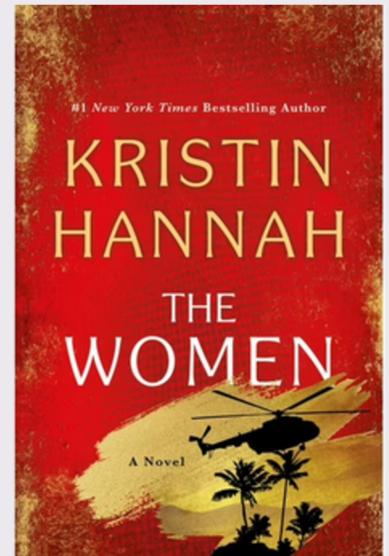
-  **Exorbitant Prices:** Library eBooks & digital audiobooks are significantly more expensive than consumer versions. Libraries often pay four to five times what a consumer pays for the same eBook.
-  **Licensing vs. Ownership:** eBooks are licensed, not bought. Libraries typically lease them through aggregators (like OverDrive or Hoopla) and cannot lease directly from publishers. This results in fewer rights and more restrictions.
-  **Forced Repurchasing:** Licenses typically have an expiration date, commonly two years or 26 check-outs. Once an expiration condition is met, the title disappears, and the library is forced to re-lease it, costing taxpayers repeatedly over the title's life.

THE LEGISLATIVE SOLUTION

The MLA is pursuing legislation, SF# 3685, similar to recent statutory provisions passed in Connecticut, based on contract law, not federal copyright¹⁷. This legislation would prohibit publicly funded libraries from entering into license agreements that contain certain onerous terms.

-  **Protect Taxpayer Dollars:** Curb high costs and forced repurchasing, promoting fiscal responsibility.
-  **Restore Local Control:** Provide libraries with more authority over their collections and preservation of Minnesota resources.
-  **Ensure Access:** Guarantee fair access to essential digital collections for all Minnesota residents, especially those relying on public libraries for accessible materials.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO READ KRISTIN HANNAH?



Consumers Pay:

eAudiobook- \$32.99
 eBook- \$14.99
 Print Book- \$18.77

Libraries Pay:

eAudiobook- \$60 **↑ \$27.01**
 eBook- \$60 **↑ \$45.01**
 Print Book- \$16.50 **↓ \$2.27**

There is an active bill in the Minnesota Legislature regarding this eBooks issue:
SF# 3685
Chief Author, Senator Kunesh