

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG LIBRARY RESPONDS TO E-BOOK LENDING CHANGES

Macmillan to embargo e-book lending for libraries, restricts use

Charlotte, NC, - October 31, 2019 – Beginning November 1, 2019, one of the largest publishers, Macmillan, is instituting an eight-week embargo against all public libraries on all new e-book titles. This means when a new book is released, public libraries will be limited to only one e-book copy and will not be allowed to purchase additional digital versions until the time limit expires. Charlotte Mecklenburg Library strives to offer a diverse and popular collection of materials to the community and supports industry efforts to combat these changes.

“Access is very important to libraries and we do not support this new policy,” says Lee Keesler, CEO of Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. “These embargos are hurtful to the reading public and could jeopardize the future of access to e-books in libraries.”

To express displeasure for Macmillan’s new e-book policies, you can email Macmillan at elending.feedback@macmillan.com. You can also add your name to the growing list of readers who signed a petition launched by the American Library Association at eBooksForAll.org.

Last year, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library’s catalog of e-books available to library cardholders for free to read on digital devices recorded more than 1.7 million checkouts of downloadable books and audiobooks. This change limits access of popular e-books and Library cardholders may experience longer wait times for digital versions of new releases published under the Macmillan umbrella, including popular authors such as Nora Roberts, Phillip Margolin, and Tomi Adeyemi.

To learn more about these changes and the impact to public libraries, visit:

- [Panorama Project](#) - A cross-industry, collaborative research initiative dedicated to using data to measure the impact libraries have on developing readers, driving book discovery, and generating book sales in their local communities and beyond.
- [Press Release from American Library Association](#)
- [Resource Page from Urban Libraries Council](#)

About Charlotte Mecklenburg Library:

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library is one of America’s leading urban public libraries, serving a community of more than one million citizens in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Through 20 locations, targeted outreach and online resources, the Library delivers exceptional services and programs, with a mission to improve lives and build a stronger community. For more, visit cmlibrary.org.

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