

# Why can't my library buy more e-books and audiobooks?

e-book and digital audiobook costs are **too high** for libraries, and access is **limited**.



Print books are owned by the library and can be used for decades until they're worn out.

**e-books and digital audiobooks are licensed—libraries don't own them.**

Plus, publishers put limits on how long the content can be used:



1 or 2 years

OR



26 or 52 checkouts



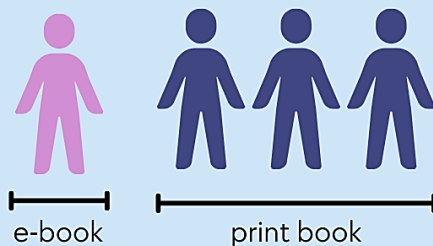
Cultivate Learning  
Inspire Creativity  
Foster Inclusivity



The cost per circulation of an electronic title is **3.7x higher** than a physical title.



Three people could check out the same print book for **less than the cost of a single e-book checkout.**



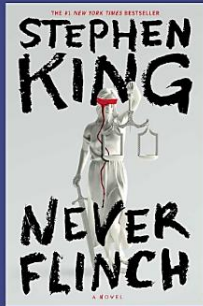
**e-books and audiobooks are free for patrons to use, but not free for libraries to offer.**

An average e-book costs a library **3.9x more** than what you would pay to buy it on your Kindle.



## Let's see some real-time examples:

*\*library costs reflect single user, 2-year limit agreement*



Format	Consumer Cost	Library Cost
	\$32.00	\$32.00
	\$16.99	\$67.99
	\$19.99	\$84.99



Format	Consumer Cost	Library Cost
	\$32.00	\$29.00
	\$14.99	\$55.00
	\$14.99	\$95.00

## e-content usage is increasing

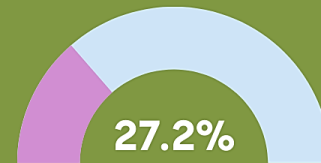
In 2024, a mid-size, suburban public library saw:

**25%**

increase in e-book circulation

**15%**

increase in audiobook circulation



Libraries spend nearly **one-third of their budget** on digital content so their patrons can enjoy these popular titles.

## How does this affect my community?



Libraries will reach their **budget breaking point**



You'll have **limited options**



Hold wait lists will get **even longer**



## How can I help?

### Keep borrowing e-content from your local library.

The numbers help us advocate for funding

#### Stay informed and support your library-serving organizations:

*American Library Association  
Michigan Library Association  
The Library Network*

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