

Mr. Josh Marwell
HarperCollins Publishers
10 East 53rd Street
New York, NY 10022

May 12, 2011

RE: EBOOK 26-CIRCULATION LIMIT POLICY

Dear Sir:

The Merrimack Valley Library Consortium (MVLC) is a thirty-six member public library network in Northeast Massachusetts committed to resource-sharing, customer service, and group purchasing of media, software and databases of interest to our almost one-half million library patrons. We appreciate HarperCollins as a vendor partner in the provision of those services to our customers, especially the provision of downloadable ebooks.

As public library professionals, we are passionate about bringing cultural literacy, information, recreational reading and self-education to our users; as a network engaged in the group purchase of downloadable and ebook products, we are concerned with HarperCollins' new policy limiting the circulation of ebooks, and hope to suggest alternatives which would be more "public library-friendly."

We are keenly aware that public libraries foster preschool literacy, create and support avid readers, and develop the future reading customer base for publishers across America. We are both excited by the advent of new downloadable formats, and determined to protect accessibility for our public patrons, many of whom might otherwise neither afford nor utilize these products.

We would hope that Harper Collins would consider other models if it feels the business need to limit circulations to 26. We would welcome a model where HC keeps the circulation limit at 26, but allows those circulations to be simultaneous. That seems more appropriate in the digital age. We would be interested in further dialogue to assist HarperCollins in crafting a policy that would be mutually beneficial to the publisher and to public libraries and networks. Thanking you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Angela Mollet, President
Merrimack Valley Library Consortium (MVLC)

