

# Directory of E-book Platforms for Libraries

## Abstract

Chapter 3 of Library Technology Reports (vol. 49, no. 3) “E-book Platforms for Libraries,” the main part of the report, is an A–Z directory of fifty-one e-book platforms competing for the attention of purchasing librarians in the United States and around the world. Each platform is placed in the context of its respective library market and identified according to platform type (e.g., aggregator, publisher), library market (e.g., academic/research, public), e-book type (e.g., trade books, reference books, etc.), and subjects covered (e.g., general, science, humanities, etc.). Special attention is given to unique features of each product.

The following is an A–Z listing of major e-book platforms available to libraries looking to purchase academic, professional, trade, and K–12 e-books. Each platform is described and identified according to the following characteristics:

- **Library markets:** academic/research, corporate, government, public, K–12, etc.
- **Platform type:** aggregator, distributor, e-book lending service, publisher, university press consortium (If a platform serves a dual purpose, it is identified accordingly, e.g., aggregator/distributor.)
- **E-book type:** handbooks, reference books, trade nonfiction, fiction, children’s books, etc.
- **Main subjects:** general, science, humanities, arts, social sciences, etc.
- **Background:** a concise description of the platform, its unique features, and the company’s vision for the product
- **Business model:** a brief explanation of purchasing options and plans available to libraries

## 123Library

**Website:** <https://www.123library.org>

**Parent company:** 123Doc Education

**Library markets:** academic/research

**Platform type:** aggregator/distributor

**E-book type:** scholarly publications, textbooks, general nonfiction

**Main subjects:** science, technology, health, medicine, social science, humanities

**Background:** The United Kingdom’s largest distributor of academic e-books, 123Library is marketed to libraries as a universal platform that works with all computer systems and mobile devices. Its web-based e-book reader (123FastReader) preserves the original formatting of each page as published in print—beneficial for libraries acquiring illustrated books. The company partners with a wide range of publishers to distribute academic, textbook, and trade content to libraries, including Hodder Education, SAGE Publications, Informa Healthcare, Elsevier, and Wiley-Blackwell. It has a strong presence in the European e-book market. Over 100 new e-books in the field of health care are added each month. Basic search is a Google-style single input field that recognizes ISBNs as distinct from other values. Advanced search allows users to restrict search to books or journals (or both).

**Business Model:** Librarians may browse the online catalog and purchase one book at a time or opt for a range of prepackaged collections of e-books. Several business models are supported, including outright purchase of e-books (once you buy e-books, you own them outright) and the loan/pay-per-view/PDA option, which allows institutions to have large collections of e-books available for a small access fee; pay only for e-

books that have been read; purchase e-books gradually (10 percent at a time); or acquire titles in perpetuity.

### 3M Cloud Library

**Website:** <http://ebook.3m.com>

**Parent company:** 3M

**Library markets:** public

**Platform type:** distributor/e-book lending service

**E-book type:** trade fiction and nonfiction

**Main subjects:** all

**Background:** 3M's cloud-based e-book lending service launched in the summer of 2011 and gained in popularity throughout 2012. It comprises over 250,000 e-book titles for adults from over 300 publishers, including HarperCollins, Random House, Penguin, ABC-CLIO, Baker Publishing Group, John Wiley & Sons, and Workman Publishing. Patrons can read and check out titles at home or on the go. They can also use Discovery Terminal Downloads stations in the library, which let them browse the catalog. To check out books, they can use 3M's own e-reader hardware, which synchronizes with 3M Cloud Library. It doesn't require a credit card and patrons do not need to buy it. The system is compatible with PCs, Macs, iPads, and Nooks.

**Business Model:** 3M Cloud Library operates on a one user/one e-book model. Libraries retain use of purchased content even after they leave the service, and they can transfer content to another platform once their contract expires. 3M also offers a PDA option called the "Wish List." It allows patrons to place titles on a wish list. If their library decides to purchase a book on this list, it is automatically delivered to the patron.

### ABC-CLIO eBook Collection

**Website:** <http://ebooks.abc-clio.com>

**Parent company:** ABC-CLIO

**Library markets:** academic/research, public, K-12

**Platform type:** publisher

**E-book type:** encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks

**Main subjects:** history, social sciences, humanities, LIS (library and information science)

**Background:** ABC-CLIO's is a research platform with over 7,000 e-books, ranging from encyclopedias and dictionaries to handbooks and guides published by ABC-CLIO as well as its other imprints: Greenwood, Libraries Unlimited, Praeger, and Linworth. The e-books are cross-searchable and include citations in four formats, e-mail and print capabilities, personalized bookmarks and notes, free downloadable MARC records, and remote accessibility of content. On the product's website, librarians may download (in Excel) the entire list of titles in the collection, broken

down by major subject areas, imprint, pub date, and ISBN. Subject collections include world history, popular culture, literature, military history, security studies, and women's studies, among others. Other features include direct deep linking and mobile device capability via web browser.

**Business Model:** ABC-CLIO allows for unlimited, simultaneous user access to its e-book platform, which fully supports commuting and off-campus students and online courses. Educators are encouraged to use the platform in classroom settings.

### Axis 360

**Website:** <http://btol.com/axis360>

**Parent company:** Baker & Taylor

**Library markets:** public, K-12, government, corporate, academic

**Platform type:** distributor/wholesaler

**E-book type:** popular trade fiction and nonfiction, best sellers, reference books, scholarly publications

**Main subjects:** all

**Background:** Baker & Taylor's e-book platform, Axis 360 (live since late 2011), makes it possible for libraries to acquire library content—including books, e-books, audiobooks, videos, and music—in one place. The content can be read on Blio—ADA-compliant multimedia e-reading software that specializes in preserving the look of physical items in digital environments—as well as Barnes & Noble's Nook, Sony's eReader, and Kobo. Librarians can choose from about 400,000 e-books (in ePub, PDF, or .xps format) through Baker & Taylor's Title Source 3 at the same time they order print titles. The platform surfaces content on a "magic wall," allowing patrons to check out the e-books they want, browse by subject, get recommendations for additional reading, and contribute book reviews. The platform is fully compatible with assistive screen-reader technologies, including JAWS, Window-Eyes, NVDA (nonvisual desktop access), and System Access to Go. Benefits for librarians include embedded collection development services, full ILS integration, immediate activation of ordered titles, and a library-branded platform.

**Business Model:** Purchase of any e-book enables a library to circulate the content in all available formats without needing to buy individual file types. Single-user and multiuser access models from participating publishers are available as of 2013 (but were not available at launch). Baker & Taylor is exploring other business models, including short-term loans, demand-driven acquisition, and classroom adoptions. It also provides libraries the option to offer content purchasing from its Axis 360 service via a Buy Now

option, which links to e-commerce transactions that ship directly to patrons' homes and generate revenue for the institution.

## Books24x7

**Website:** [www.books24x7.com](http://www.books24x7.com)

**Parent company:** Skillsoft Ireland Limited

**Library markets:** academic/research, corporate

**Platform type:** aggregator/distributor

**E-book type:** reference books, handbooks, monographs, reports

**Main subjects:** computer science, engineering, business, government, public administration

**Background:** A subsidiary of Skillsoft since 2001, Books24x7 was one of the earliest companies to license and repackage e-books for IT professionals on a subscription basis. It provides online access to the unabridged contents of books; book summaries; and leadership, IT, and desktop videos via fifteen topical collections, among them ITPro, Leadership Development Channel videos (in English or in languages with subtitles and localized metadata), fifty Lessons videos, Skillsoft IT and Desktop Videos, BusinessPro, EngineeringPro, FinancePro, OfficeEssentials, Well-BeingEssentials, ExecSummaries, ExecBlueprints, and GovEssentials. These collections include the full text of thousands of professional books; live and on-demand videos of business leaders; best practices from executives of Fortune 5000 companies; and full reports from and summaries of the analyst community. New titles are added every week, and the product is expected to increase to 39,000 titles by the end of 2013. Key features include complimentary MARC records, a patented search interface, and productivity tools that include bookmarks, notes, personal folders, multiple citation formats, RefWorks, and persistent URLs.

**Business Model:** Books24x7's goal is to monetize publishers' content through sales of whole books as well as licensing fees. It has a Buy Book link on every page in its offerings. Although the default bookseller is Amazon, publishers can redirect the link to any online bookseller. Libraries can subscribe to any combination of the topical collections. Books24x7 offers site licenses and concurrent seat licensing models based on FTE (full-time equivalent).

## Books at JSTOR

**Website:** <http://books.jstor.org>

**Parent company:** ITHAKA

**Library markets:** academic/research

**Platform type:** university press consortium

**E-book type:** monographs, scholarly publications

**Main subjects:** humanities, sciences, arts, social sciences

**Background:** Books at JSTOR is an initiative by several university presses (including Yale, Princeton, Columbia, and Cornell, among others) to make their e-books available as part of JSTOR, a research platform founded in 1995 by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The 15,000 e-books are cross-searchable with millions of journal articles and primary sources already on JSTOR. (Patrons may select tabs at the top of the Search Results page in order to limit results by content type.) A wide range of scholarly disciplines is represented, including, for example, technology, history, music, political science, education, sociology, business, and law. The platform also includes a million book reviews. Books are preserved in Portico, ITHAKA's digital preservation service.

**Business Model:** E-books are available for purchase under a single-user or an unlimited-user model. The single-user model is offered for all books and allows for thirty downloads per year, with ability to purchase more. The unlimited concurrent user model includes unlimited, DRM-free downloads and can be upgraded to the single-user model. A demand-driven acquisition (DDA) model is available for some (not all) titles, and purchases are triggered when certain usage thresholds are met. Pricing is tiered according to JSTOR classifications; volume discounts are available.

## Books@Ovid

**Website:** [http://site.ovid.com/site/products/books\\_landing.jsp](http://site.ovid.com/site/products/books_landing.jsp)

**Parent company:** Ovid Technologies, Inc. (Wolters Kluwer)

**Library markets:** academic/research

**Platform type:** aggregator/distributor

**E-book type:** textbooks, reference books, manuals, handbooks

**Main subjects:** health, medicine, nursing, psychiatry

**Background:** Books@Ovid provides full-text coverage from a number of medical textbooks and reference books for students and researchers in the health care professions. Most of the titles are published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, a leading medical publisher. Others include Wiley-Blackwell, Springer, and CABI Publishing. A wide range of medical subjects are covered, with special emphasis on clinical practice, including nursing and psychiatry. Users can browse the collection by title or subject, and they may choose to print individual chapters or sections within the books. Books@Ovid is integrated with Journals@Ovid and Ovid's Bibliographic Databases and includes the following features: multiframe searching, links from

book bibliographies, book topic links, and results ranked by relevance (not by book title).

**Business Model:** Libraries may purchase books on an individual basis or select any of the available subject collections. Collection prices depend on the number of titles included in each collection, ranging from ten to fifty.

## Brain Hive

**Website:** [www.brainhive.com](http://www.brainhive.com)

**Parent company:** Brain Hive, LLC

**Library markets:** K–12

**Platform type:** distributor/e-book lending service

**E-book type:** picture books, chapter books, graphic novels, YA fiction and nonfiction

**Main subjects:** all

**Background:** Brain Hive is a pay-as-you-go, on-demand e-book service for K–12 schools that launched in 2012. Available on the platform are some 3,500 titles from twenty publishers, among them Random House, Lerner Publishing Group, Gecko Press, the Creative Company, Kane Press, Red Chair Press, and Stoke Books. Dozens of new titles from more publishers are expected to be added each month. The e-books are aligned with STM and Common Core State Standards, and teachers are encouraged to form book clubs and incorporate lessons within the platform's environment. Key features include printable activities, teaching resources, and Accelerated Reader quizzes from Renaissance Learning. E-books can be searched by grade level and subject. A free Brain Hive eReader App for iPad is available through the Apple App Store.

**Business Model:** Schools have the option to buy the most popular titles on a multiuser basis, which allows them to make the e-books they purchase a permanent part of a library collection. They pay \$1 each time an e-book is checked out, with schools having the option to set the loan period at three, seven, or fourteen days. Membership is free, and there are no additional rental fees.

## Cambridge Books Online (CBO)

**Website:** <http://ebooks.cambridge.org>

**Parent company:** Cambridge University Press

**Library markets:** academic/research

**Platform type:** publisher

**E-book type:** monographs, textbooks

**Main subjects:** science, technology, medicine, humanities, social sciences

**Background:** Newly redesigned for 2013, Cambridge

Books Online is a multidisciplinary e-book platform that provides access to about 20,000 titles published by Cambridge University Press. Included are backlist as well as frontlist titles that are made available on the platform within four to six weeks of the print publication date. Key features include compliance with all major industry standards and initiatives and extensive user functionality, including hyperlinked references and personalization options. MARC records are available free of charge for all titles in the collections. Librarians may download a MARC21 format file containing records of all titles to which their institution has purchased access.

**Business Model:** Libraries can purchase predefined subject collections or come up with packages with their own selection of e-books in a number of purchasing plans, including a perpetual-access model, approval plans, advance ordering, or subscription.

## dawsonera

**Website:** <http://dawsonera.com>

**Parent company:** Dawson Books, Ltd.

**Library markets:** academic/research, professional

**Platform type:** distributor

**E-book type:** scholarly publications, monographs, reference books

**Main subjects:** all

**Background:** dawsonera is a web-based portal for academic libraries with a strong presence in the European library market. The software is held on the Dawson server. (The library does not install it locally.) It is accessed via the Internet like any other site. The software enables a library to manage a collection of e-books and lend the e-books to their patrons. The Reader Portal is where e-books may be discovered and read (in PDF), while the Admin Portal serves as a tool for librarians to purchase e-books and manage their collections. Publishers that partner with Dawson can obtain information about their e-books via the Publisher Portal. The following academic publishers have an agreement with dawsonera: Blackwell, Brill, Cambridge University Press, Emerald, McGraw-Hill, Oxford University Press, Psychology Press, Routledge, SAGE Publications, Taylor & Francis, Wiley, and a few others.

**Business Model:** Each library builds a tailored collection of e-books for its patrons, title by title. Once an e-book is purchased, perpetual access is offered to each copy. Alternatively, libraries may choose to temporarily rent e-books not yet purchased. Short-term downloading of e-books from the collection is also possible. Each e-book purchased is charged at the list price set by the publisher, plus a hosting fee. No other charges apply.

## De Gruyter Online

**Website:** www.degruyter.com

**Parent company:** De Gruyter

**Library markets:** academic/research

**Platform type:** publisher

**E-book type:** scholarly publications, monographs, reference books, textbooks

**Main subjects:** arts, humanities, social sciences, science, technology, medicine, LIS (library and information science)

**Background:** De Gruyter Online is a multiproduct platform that houses all of De Gruyter's e-content, including journals, monographs, reference books, and directories in a wide range of subject categories, including history, law, literary studies, medicine, philosophy, theology, and linguistics and communications, among others. The convergence of print and online formats under one roof replaced De Gruyter's previous platform, Reference Global, in early 2012. At the time of its launch, the new platform comprised about 60,000 titles, well over 200,000 book chapters, and nearly 250,000 journal articles. Advanced personalization features allow users to engage with content via content alerts, annotations, saved searches, and personal virtual bookshelves for titles, chapters, and articles. Librarians may subscribe to subject newsletters with eTOC, saved search, and citations alerts. All e-books are full-text searchable, indexed, and enhanced with DOIs and MARC records.

**Business Model:** E-books can be ordered individually, as pick-and-choose packages, or as fixed packages. Options include perpetual access as well as twenty-four-hour access to individual e-book chapters via pay-per-view. Librarians can buy fixed e-book packages at special rates: subject packages are offered with a 15 percent discount, the complete package with a 20 percent discount on the list prices of the individual titles. As an alternative to fixed packages, libraries can purchase between twenty and fifty e-books for a 5 percent discount or fifty-one or more e-books for a 10 percent discount.

## EBL (Ebook Library)

**Website:** www.eplib.com

**Parent company:** ProQuest, LLC

**Library markets:** academic/research, corporate, government

**Platform type:** aggregator/e-book lending service

**E-book type:** scholarly publications, reference books, monographs

**Main subjects:** all

**Background:** EBL provides e-books to academic, re-

search, government, and corporate libraries, featuring over 350,000 titles from hundreds of publishers representing and covering a range of scholarly disciplines. The e-books can be borrowed and checked out like print books and accessed either online, through EBL's PDF-based reader, or offline (by downloading Adobe Reader to a computer or e-book reading device). Patrons can browse all books and utilize full-text search within the browser. Chapters can be utilized for purchase by students, for reserve lending by libraries, and for inclusion in e-Pack course packs. Stand-out features include an in-browser dictionary, the ability to create and export notes (via RefWorks or e-mail), and a read-aloud tool. Free MARC records with an option for automatic delivery are available for all titles, and other services, such as integrated authentication, automated holdings with OCLC, electronic invoicing and ordering, and real-time budget-tracking tools are available to support the library workflow.

**Business Model:** EBL offers e-books via several models, including traditional firm order accounts, demand-driven acquisition programs, short-term loans, or any combination of these. Non-Linear Lending, EBL's signature lending system, enables libraries to buy one copy of an e-book (for the price of one book) and lend it simultaneously to multiple patrons. This model limits the total number of lending days per year per title but enables multiple concurrent access. All EBL titles can be downloaded for offline or mobile use and are all eligible for DDA programs.

## eBooks on EBSCOhost

**Website:** http://ebSCOhost.com/ebooks

**Parent company:** EBSCO Publishing

**Library markets:** academic/research, public, K-12, corporate

**Platform type:** aggregator

**E-book type:** reference books, scholarly publications, general nonfiction

**Main subjects:** all

**Background:** eBooks on EBSCOhost is EBSCO's collection of more than 350,000 (mostly nonfiction and reference) e-books from 1,400 publishers in a wide variety of disciplines and subjects, fully integrated into the EBSCOhost interface. Users may browse high-interest titles in various topic areas and employ the EBSCOhost Collection Manager to select and acquire them. eBook Academic Subscription Collection provides access to thousands of full-text academic e-books. Academic librarians may also opt to own (in perpetuity) EBSCO's Featured Collections, which offer titles covering a range of different topic areas from within a subject. Prepackaged Subject Sets (also owned in perpetuity) focus on a single topic from within a broader

subject and contain frontlist titles selected by EBSCO's Collection Development team. eBook Public Library Subscription Collection includes 23,000 titles chosen specifically for public libraries, featuring best-selling and highly recommended titles from leading publishers. EBSCO recently launched its first e-book subscription collection for corporations, aimed at business professionals, with more than 5,600 e-books on leadership and management, finance and accounting, sales, and related topics. MARC records are available at no charge for every title on the platform.

**Business Model:** eBooks on EBSCOhost are available for purchase via three access models: one user at a time, three simultaneous users, or unlimited users. Subscriptions are available annually to high-interest subject anthologies of e-book titles, while short-term leases are available for one, seven, fourteen, or twenty-eight days. EBSCO also offers a patron-driven acquisition (PDA) program that allows librarians to preselect titles by publisher, subject, or other criteria and then expose them through the library's OPAC; a purchase is triggered only when a book is used. The cost of the books is the individual publisher's list price; there are no additional fees for purchasing libraries. Discounts are available for consortium members.

## ebrary

**Website:** [www.ebrary.com](http://www.ebrary.com)

**Parent company:** ProQuest

**Library markets:** academic/research, public, K–12, corporate

**Platform type:** aggregator

**E-book type:** scholarly publications, general nonfiction

**Main subjects:** all

**Background:** Acquired by ProQuest in January 2011, ebrary is a pioneer in the e-book business, with a platform featuring about 450,000 e-book titles from over 500 publishers, including the majority of university presses, leading academic and STM publishers, and a number of trade publishers. Its legacy product is Academic Complete, which features around sixteen subject collections, and Public Complete, which features public library-oriented collections, among them schools and studying, career development, practical life skills, and arts and leisure. In 2012, ebrary announced a three-step approach to e-book acquisition for libraries: transition, diversify, and streamline, with a goal to encourage libraries to transition a greater percentage of their budgets to application programming interfaces (APIs) from print to electronic, diversify acquisition models, and streamline order processes. Full e-books and individual chapters can be downloaded onto various devices, including Kobo and Nook. Additionally,

libraries are able to upload and integrate their own content with DASH! (Data Sharing, Fast).

**Business Model:** Acquisition models include subscription (based on FTE), PDA, short-term loans, and outright purchase through perpetual archive. The short-term loan policy allows users to borrow an e-book from ebrary's catalog for a term, set by the library, of either one day or one week. Each loan costs a library 10 to 30 percent of the e-book price, depending on the length of the loan and ebrary's agreement with the publisher. Libraries are able to offer patrons up to three short-term loans per title, after which they are required to purchase the title for continued access.

## epointbooks.com

**Website:** [www.epointbooks.com](http://www.epointbooks.com)

**Parent company:** Rosen Publishing

**Library markets:** K–12, public

**Platform type:** publisher

**E-book type:** children's nonfiction

**Main subjects:** social studies, history, science, health, math, arts and crafts

**Background:** epointbooks.com is an e-book platform (powered by MyiLibrary) that provides access to over 3,500 nonfiction titles for the Pre K–12 market from Rosen Publishing, Gareth Stevens Publishing, Britannica Educational Publishing, and Windmill Books. The platform allows users to search content across all purchased titles and bookmark and highlight selected passages. Selected content can be printed or downloaded for offline use, and personal notes and bookmarks can be stored in "subaccounts." With the subaccounts, users can save notes and bookmarks in any e-book, along with previous search results. E-books can be accessed via a library website or a library's catalog using MARC records. Titles are organized by subject and/or publisher-specific collections. Students can load an e-book via any web browser and activate host-based features.

**Business Model:** E-books are ordered directly from Rosen Publishing like print titles and then loaded into a library's account. The library receives a confirmation e-mail once an e-book order is processed and the selected e-books are loaded into the epointbooks.com account. Discounts for school and public libraries are provided.

## Follett eBooks

**Website:** <http://aboutfollettebooks.com>

**Parent company:** Follett Corporation

**Library markets:** K–12, public

**Platform type:** distributor/e-book lending service

**E-book type:** children's and YA fiction and nonfiction, reference books

**Main subjects:** all

**Background:** FollettShelf is a free service from Follett Corporation, a distributor of content to public and K–12 libraries, that provides web-based access to all of the company's e-content, including Follett eBooks. Other components of FollettShelf include Capstone Interactive Library, Lerner Interactive Books, Catalyst Digital, TumbleBook Library, and Rourke Interactive eBooks. All databases purchased through Follett (e.g., Rosen's Teen & Health Wellness) are also accessed through FollettShelf. Follett e-books are digital editions of print titles with advanced capabilities, many designed for educational purposes. E-books can be previewed and purchased using Follett's Titlewave interface. Some are sold as curriculum-focused and subject-focused bundles designed for use in elementary, middle, and high schools. E-books can be read on a web browser or mobile device, they can be read in the cloud or downloaded for reading, and all have searchable text and a built-in dictionary. In addition, bookmarking can be done manually by students, books can be returned early, and students can highlight text. The Follett Digital Reader app must be installed to read Follett e-books offline. The platform is compatible with Destiny Library Manager ILS.

**Business Model:** E-books purchased are owned, and there are no access fees. Some are available as single check-outs only, while others allow multiple check-outs of a single copy (about 30,000 of over 145,000 titles). If the e-book is an unlimited simultaneous access Follett e-book, then multiple users can access the title concurrently. If a title is a one-to-one e-book, access is possible for as many users as there are purchased and available copies.

## Freading Ebook Service

**Website:** <http://freading.com>

**Parent company:** Library Ideas LLC

**Library markets:** public

**Platform type:** distributor/e-book lending service

**E-book type:** trade fiction and nonfiction, YA fiction and nonfiction

**Main subjects:** all

**Background:** Library Ideas is known for its signature music product, Freegal. Freading, a pay-per-use e-book platform for libraries, is its book counterpart. Freading's list of publishers isn't as exhaustive as that of OverDrive and does not include titles from major trade publishers, but a number of well-known mid-size publishers are represented, including Sterling, Sourcebooks, Workman, Algonquin Books, and Kens-

ington. The number of e-books on the platform stands at around 50,000, and new content is added on a weekly basis. Patrons of participating libraries download content through the Freading site via prepaid "tokens," and libraries choose the number of tokens available weekly to them. Freading is not integrated with the library's OPAC and does not supply MARC records, although this service is planned for the near future. Freading's multiuser, simultaneous lending model is attractive to libraries looking to obtain access to ready-made collections and avoid wait lines for lending.

**Business Model:** The Freading model allows multiple users to read the same title at the same time. After a \$150 start-up fee, libraries pay for content as it is selected and used by patrons. Prices range from \$.50 to \$2 per use, depending on the copyright date of the book. The subscribing library purchases a set number of tokens, and users get a weekly allotment to spend on downloads. Content is never owned, and the loan period is two weeks. Each book can then be renewed for a two-week period for free or for a nominal fee. After the four-week loan period, the book cannot be accessed without incurring a new download fee.

## FreedomFlix

**Website:** <http://freedomflix.digital.scholastic.com/home>

**Parent company:** Scholastic, Inc.

**Library markets:** K–12, public

**Platform type:** publisher

**E-book type:** children's nonfiction

**Main subjects:** social studies, US history

**Background:** FreedomFlix features Common Core-aligned content from Children's Press's Cornerstones of Freedom book series. All e-books provide an interactive learning experience and are supported with primary sources, videos, audio, images, and related articles. Included are texts and facsimiles of historical documents, videos that build on the living history theme, related articles from Grolier Online, dramatic readings of letters and firsthand accounts, and project ideas. There are also several teacher tools in the package, including a Show What You Know quiz (ten multiple-choice questions); one to three open-ended classroom discussion questions; a lesson plan; and an interactive whiteboard activity. With the Digital Locker preference, students can save and take notes on any page, save where they leave off in the book with the bookmark feature, and highlight and save key assets from the book.

**Business Model:** Access to the platform may be purchased through Scholastic Library Publishing only. Annual subscriptions for school and public libraries

include unlimited, 24/7 multiuser simultaneous and remote access from home. Annual platform fees apply for subscriptions. There is no purchase-to-own option.

## Gale Virtual Reference Library (GVRL)

**Website:** [www.gale.cengage.com/gvrl](http://www.gale.cengage.com/gvrl)

**Parent company:** Cengage Learning

**Library markets:** academic/research, public, K–12

**Platform type:** aggregator

**E-book type:** reference books and series nonfiction

**Main subjects:** all

**Background:** GVRL, which underwent a significant revision in 2011, is a research e-book platform with approximately 8,000 titles for purchase from more than eighty publishers, including SAGE, Dorling Kindersley, Facts On File, ABC-CLIO, Elsevier, Wiley, and Encyclopædia Britannica. It allows librarians to build digital reference collections title by title, and all purchased e-books are cross-searchable with other Gale content, including InfoTrac and certain In Context products, using Gale PowerSearch. Users can search the entire digital collection, a specific book series, or a chosen title, and bibliographic data can be exported to third-party citation tools. Other features include a user interface in thirty-four languages; ReadSpeaker (text-to-speech functionality) for nineteen languages; on-demand machine-aided content translations into fourteen languages; hundred of titles in Spanish, Chinese, French, and other languages; and an interactive book-like experience with a two-page viewer and page flipper.

**Business Model:** GVRL is a purchase model. Libraries buy the titles they want and get unlimited simultaneous-user access to them. The purchased e-books are owned indefinitely. There is a nominal hosting fee, used to support the enhancing of the platform.

## Infobase eBooks

**Website:** <http://infobaselearning.com/ebooks>

**Parent company:** Infobase Publishing

**Library markets:** K–12, public, academic

**Platform type:** publisher

**E-book type:** reference books, general nonfiction

**Main subjects:** history, science, literature, health, medicine, careers, biographies, religion, arts

**Background:** Infobase eBooks contain proprietary content from the following imprints: Facts On File, Chelsea House, Ferguson Publishing, and Bloom's Literary Criticism. It comprises about 4,000 core-curriculum, sole-source titles for middle school through academic-level library patrons, as well as a variety of embed-

ded e-book collections. Features for libraries include unlimited simultaneous use with 24/7 remote access; correlations to Common Core, state, and national standards; no access, hosting, or service fees; citations in MLA, Chicago, and APA formats; free downloadable MARC records; enhanced admin tools; and usage statistics. The platform is organized into twenty-five subject collections for subject-oriented searching. HTML is the default display format (although PDFs are still available, and account administrators can download PDFs to archive).

**Business Model:** Individual e-books can be purchased in perpetuity, with unlimited simultaneous use and 24/7 access. Libraries may opt for subject-specific e-book collections, which contain the full texts of editorially chosen core-curriculum titles. Master e-book subscriptions are also available for the academic, middle/high school, and public library markets. Individual K–12 schools pay print list price for each e-book. Pricing for multiple schools and academic institutions is based on FTE. Pricing for public libraries is based on the number of card holders.

## Knovel

**Website:** <http://why.knovel.com>

**Parent company:** Knovel Corporation

**Library markets:** academic/research, professional, government

**Platform type:** aggregator

**E-book type:** scholarly and professional literature

**Main subjects:** engineering

**Background:** Knovel is a collection of over 16,000 full-text (PDF) e-books in science, technology, and engineering that are integrated with Knovel's productivity and data analysis tools that help users manipulate available information. There are nearly 100,000 interactive tables, graphs, and equations in the package. Subscribers also get access to more than 4,000 reference works and databases from more than ninety international publishers and professional societies via the same interface. Subject areas covered are broken down into a number of broad categories, including Adhesives, Sealants, Coatings & Inks; Aerospace & Radar Technology; Biochemistry, Biology & Biotechnology; Ceramics & Ceramic Engineering; Civil Engineering & Construction Materials; Environment & Environmental Engineering; Food Science; Metals & Metallurgy; Sustainable Energy and Development; Textiles; and others. Knovel's search allows users to find data hidden in tables, graphs, and equations, while numeric range and multivariable search helps them solve complex problems. The My Knovel feature allows users to personalize their research findings.

**Business Model:** Knovel offers enterprise and academ-



ic subscription plans that take into account the size of an organization, its user population, and its information needs. Knovel does not sell individual e-book titles or offer subscriptions to individuals. Pricing for Knovel's enterprise subscription packages begins at \$10,000.

### LexisNexis Digital Library

**Website:** [www.lexisnexis.com/ebooks/lending](http://www.lexisnexis.com/ebooks/lending)

**Parent company:** LexisNexis

**Library markets:** academic/research, government, corporate

**Platform type:** publisher/e-book lending service

**E-book type:** primary law, deskbooks, legal code books, treatises

**Main subjects:** law

**Background:** LexisNexis's unique partnership with OverDrive has led to the 2012 release of LexisNexis Digital Library, a new, publisher-agnostic e-book lending service that offers access to the content of over 1,200 legal e-books on all major mobile devices and desktop platforms. It also enables subscribing organizations to lend individual e-book titles to multiple users, purchase e-books centrally, and manage their titles in one place. The core of LexisNexis Digital Library is a website created by OverDrive that is customized for each law firm or organization (including, for the most part, academic and government law libraries). A librarian (or designated administrator) orders titles and supervises lending of all electronic content via this site. The administrator also generates reports to better understand e-book usage patterns. Legal professionals are able to check out and return titles via the website, via a mobile-optimized version of the site, or through a downloadable mobile application. As a result of the agreement with OverDrive, LexisNexis customers also have access to more than 700,000 titles from OverDrive's Content Reserve collection development portal. LexisNexis e-books are compatible with Windows PC, Mac, iPod, iPhone, iPad, Kindle (US only), Sony eReader, Nook, Android, BlackBerry, and Windows Phone.

**Business Model:** Individual LexisNexis e-books range in price from \$14 to over \$1,000, and only select titles are available by subscription. LexisNexis Digital Library pricing varies and ranges from a one user/one copy approach to an unlimited-use pricing model. The librarian who acts as the administrator chooses the length of the checkout period (from 7 to 180 days) and whether books can be renewed.

### Literati by Credo

**Website:** <http://literati.credoreference.com>

**Parent company:** Credo Reference

**Library markets:** academic/research

**Platform type:** aggregator

**E-book type:** reference books, encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks, almanacs

**Main subjects:** all

**Background:** Literati is a research platform that combines Credo's licensed content from over eighty publishers with library-centric technologies. As part of the subscription package, Credo's on-staff librarians and educators partner with each library to support its strategic goals. Literati Topic Pages integrate Credo's reference e-books with a library's existing resources and discovery services and deliver real-time results. Libraries can select the specific journal databases, e-book collections, or news resources they wish to integrate within their Credo's Topic Pages. The Literati team works with the library to embed customized tool tips that help students understand which resource to use for their specific research need. Literati Academic includes 3.4 million reference entries (from about 1,300 titles), more than 550,000 images, audio files, videos, and a growing collection of about 10,000 Topic Pages. Also included is the Mind Map and other embedded tools and services designed to enrich the research experience and integration with course management systems like Blackboard and Moodle. A version of the legacy platform (for academic libraries) is now also available for public and school libraries.

**Business Model:** Literati is offered on an annual subscription basis. Libraries may opt to enhance their Literati subscription with publisher and subject collections, which are available for perpetual purchase or annual subscription; individual titles from these collections may also be purchased on a title-by-title basis.

### MackinVIA

**Website:** [www.mackin.com](http://www.mackin.com)

**Parent company:** Mackin Educational Resources

**Library markets:** K-12, public

**Platform type:** aggregator

**E-book type:** reference books, K-12 nonfiction

**Main subjects:** all

**Background:** MackinVIA is a web-based portal with over 40,000 e-book titles for use in school and K-12 libraries. The same portal also incorporates forty databases for Pre K-12, many equipped with videos and educator tools. Libraries manage all of their e-books and databases via one login, and the students who use VIA get access to both e-books and databases in one place (but cannot check them out). The content comes from a range of publishers—including ABC-CLIO, Crabtree, Chelsea House, Gale Cengage Learning, Gareth Stevens Publishing, and Rosen—and is accessible

through the library's online catalog and/or a link on the school's website. Educators are encouraged to use the platform with interactive boards. Students may search for titles by subject and create VIA groups for grades, classes, reading assignments, etc. Key features include free MARC records and customizable search filters. The platform is expected to grow significantly in 2013.

**Business Model:** Mackin supports access to single-use e-books, unlimited simultaneous access e-books, and e-book subscriptions. Checked-out titles use lending periods that are established by the system administrator. Libraries purchasing e-books on MackinVIA own them outright and do not need to pay separate annual access fees to keep them on the platform. E-book pricing varies, with most titles falling within the \$30–\$50 range.

### McGraw-Hill eBook Library

**Website:** <http://mhebooklibrary.com>

**Parent company:** McGraw-Hill

**Library markets:** academic/research, corporate

**Platform type:** publisher

**E-book type:** scholarly companions, handbooks, reference books, study aids

**Main subjects:** business, medicine, engineering, computing

**Background:** The McGraw-Hill eBook Library includes over 1,400 e-books in the areas of business, medicine, engineering, and computing. There are also fifty collections, each featuring between 15 and 1,250 titles that are grouped under four headings: Engineering and Computing (e.g., civil engineering, consumer computing), Student Study Aids (e.g., AP study guides, school and career exams), Medical (e.g., primary care, nursing, first aid), and Business (e.g., career advice, sales and marketing). Users can sort by title, filter by one of the broad headings, or use the Advanced Search to search by keywords, title, author, ISBN, category, or publication year. Access to the library is web-based, and the e-book displays in the browser. DRM restrictions apply for printing: users can print single pages, with a limit of 10 percent of a title. If they opt to create a login, they can take notes, use bookmarks, and create folders. With the exception of the student study aids, most of the titles are aimed at working professionals.

**Business Model:** Access is sold on a one-to-four-year subscription basis, with free-of-charge monthly updates and unlimited concurrent usage. Pricing depends on population served for public libraries or FTE for academic institutions. It is possible to purchase individual collections or clusters, but not individual titles. If a library chooses to subscribe to a specific collection

for one year, it gets access to existing titles, plus additional frontlist updates that are added to this collection throughout the year.

### MyiLibrary

**Website:** [www.myilibrary.com](http://www.myilibrary.com)

**Parent company:** Ingram Content Group

**Library markets:** academic/research

**Platform type:** aggregator

**E-book type:** all

**Main subjects:** all

**Background:** With nearly 400,000 titles covering all major disciplines and an additional 5,000 titles added each month, MyiLibrary is one of the fastest-growing e-book platforms available to libraries. It aggregates content from a range of publishers, including Encyclopaedia Britannica, Taylor & Francis, McGraw-Hill, Wiley, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Springer, and Elsevier. It also provides exclusive access to intergovernmental publications from groups such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Labor Organization, and the World Health Organization. Key features include always-on (remote) access, full-text searching across the entire platform supported by enhanced metadata, and flexible buying options. A variety of secure and controlled access/authentication methods to content is provided using broad DRM implementation. With the acquisition of a title or a collection, a range of user-friendly search options enable users to cross-reference material, view searches in order of relevance, save previous searches, and create bookmarks. The platform is entrenched in the academic/research market, but its presence in public libraries is growing. Major updates are expected in 2013.

**Business Model:** Ingram's MyiLibrary offers libraries the ability to acquire e-books on a title-by-title basis or to create their own publisher-specific or subject-specific collections, which may be accessed in perpetuity or by subscription. Approval plans are also part of the package.

### OverDrive

**Website:** [www.overdrive.com](http://www.overdrive.com)

**Parent company:** OverDrive

**Library markets:** public, K–12, academic/research, corporate

**Platform type:** distributor/e-book lending service

**E-book type:** trade books, handbooks, reference books, comic books, children's books

**Main subjects:** all

**Background:** Founded in 1986 and in the e-book business since 2000, OverDrive is the largest public library

e-book vendor, now offering about 1 million titles from 2,000 publishers on its platform. E-books, audiobooks, and videos are available on the same platform in a variety of fiction and nonfiction genres. OverDrive is the only library vendor that offers direct download to Kindle devices. Its online catalog, Content Reserve, also contains digital books in more than fifty languages, including Russian, Swedish, Portuguese, Italian, and Spanish. OverDrive creates the custom website for each library, provides staff training, and lets librarians set lending policies and periods. A single website is used for browsing, checking out titles, and downloading. In 2012, OverDrive announced a new e-book reading platform, OverDrive Read, which enable readers using standard web browsers to read e-books online and offline without needing to install any software or activate their device. OverDrive is also testing new Media Stations for touchscreen monitors and Internet workstations to help raise visibility of e-books in libraries.

**Business Model:** Libraries pay a subscription fee based on the number of titles they license (and lend to patrons), which is determined based on the population of the service area. Simultaneous access collections are available on an annual subscription basis and can supplement a library's existing one copy/one user collection. Libraries get to decide on their institution's lending policies. Annual maintenance and hosting fees apply.

### Oxford Handbooks Online

**Website:** [www.oxfordhandbooks.com](http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com)  
**Parent company:** Oxford University Press  
**Library markets:** academic/research  
**Platform type:** publisher  
**E-book type:** handbooks  
**Main subjects:** humanities, social sciences

**Background:** Oxford Handbooks Online (OHO) houses over 300 handbooks and 10,000 articles in fourteen different disciplines, including archeology, classical studies, business and management, philosophy, music, politics, etc. The platform was significantly revamped in 2012 and relaunched as a publishing "program," enabling articles to publish immediately after passing peer review. Each subject (or discipline) has been assigned an editor-in-chief as well as an editorial board of subject experts, who oversee the publication of handbooks within the program and also commission online-only articles in cutting-edge topics. The relaunch of OHO introduced two main content collections: the Foundation Collection (everything available in print up until the first half of 2012) and the Annual Collections (all new content available within a calendar year, including newly released handbooks, in addition to articles written for future handbooks or for

online-only publication). OHO is fully cross-searchable within the Oxford Index, a free discovery service, and it features freely available abstracts and keywords at the handbook and article level.

**Business Model:** The Foundation Collection is available across fourteen subject areas via perpetual access only and on an unlimited user basis. The Annual Collections are available by either perpetual access or subscription across all fourteen subject areas. Institutions can also choose to subscribe to OHO to gain full access to both collections.

### Oxford Reference

**Website:** [www.oxfordreference.com](http://www.oxfordreference.com)  
**Parent company:** Oxford University Press  
**Library markets:** academic/research, public, K-12  
**Platform type:** publisher  
**E-book type:** dictionaries, companions, encyclopedias  
**Main subjects:** general reference

**Background:** Oxford Reference is the online home of Oxford University Press's 300-plus reference books, which include subject, language, and quotation dictionaries and a wide variety of companions and encyclopedias. The platform is made up of two fully integrated and cross-searchable collections (linked to the Oxford Index): Oxford Quick Reference is all about quickly checking a fact or finding key information about a concept, person, or term; Oxford Reference Library is all about in-depth research and specialist content. In addition, free content supplements the paid content: researchers can use Oxford Reference without paid access from anywhere (or with limited title access) to start their inquiry. Included are over 2 million entries, twenty-five different subject areas; a variety of English and American dictionaries; bilingual dictionaries in French, German, Spanish, and Italian; over 18,000 illustrations, including color photographs, maps, tables, and more; over 300,000 overview pages; over 275 free time lines linking some 9,000 key historical events; and thousands of weblinks.

**Business Model:** Oxford Reference Library is available for purchase in perpetuity on a title-by-title basis. Oxford Quick Reference is available by subscription to institutions as well as individuals. Annual platform fees apply if a library is not subscribing to any content or does not take any new content for two years.

### Palgrave Connect

**Website:** [www.palgraveconnect.com](http://www.palgraveconnect.com)  
**Parent company:** Palgrave Macmillan  
**Library markets:** academic/research

**Platform type:** publisher

**E-book type:** monographs, handbooks, reference works

**Main subjects:** economics, finance, business, arts, humanities, social sciences

**Background:** Palgrave Connect offers libraries a site license for Palgrave Macmillan's complete e-book collection or for any number of collections in eleven subject areas: Economics & Finance; Political & International Studies; History; Business & Management; Language & Linguistics; Religion & Philosophy; Social Sciences; Literature; Media & Culture; Education; and Theatre & Performance. The platform brings together backlist (going back to 1997) and new (added monthly) titles and now includes about 11,500 e-books in total. Librarians can choose from about 100 collections, arranged by both publication year and subject. The platform integrates with the library's catalog, and free MARC21 records are provided.

**Business Model:** Palgrave Connect is sold on a perpetual-ownership basis, with two available models: Collection (choose from 100+ collections) and Build-Your-Own-Collection (pick titles from across subject areas; a minimum twenty-title purchase is required). Access to Palgrave Connect allows simultaneous users concurrent access to all purchased content in perpetuity. Perpetual access is free as long as the subscribing institution maintains an active site license to a frontlist collection.

## PsycBOOKS

**Website:** [www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psycbooks](http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psycbooks)

**Parent company:** American Psychological Association (APA)

**Library markets:** academic/research

**Platform type:** publisher

**E-book type:** scholarly monographs, professional literature

**Main subjects:** psychology, behavioral sciences

**Background:** PsycBOOKS provides e-access to the full text of thousands of cross-searchable scholarly and professional books, including recent APA titles in psychological and behavioral science, plus a substantial backfile of historic works. It comprises scholarly publications ranging from the most current clinical theories to the books published in the early seventeenth century, professional titles that present applications for behavioral science in contemporary issues, and chapters from hard-to-find classic books. Access is also provided to the 1,500 entries in the *Encyclopedia of Psychology*, copublished by APA and Oxford University Press. Of the 3,500+ books included, 910 are published by APA and about 100 are out of print. Psyc-

BOOKS does not include APA Style products, Magination Press children's titles, APA LifeTools trade book titles, APA Handbooks in Psychology, textbooks, encyclopedias, or other reference publications. There is a twelve-month embargo on titles before they are made available online.

**Business Model:** Individual access to PsycBOOKS can be obtained in two ways: via subscription access (PsycBOOKS is included in a subscription to APA PsycNET Gold, APA PsycNET Gold Plus, and APA PsycNET Platinum) or via on-demand access (searching is free, users pay only when they download full-text chapters). Institutional access is provided to libraries via a subscription model directly by the publisher or via several other vendors, including EBSCO, Ovid, and ProQuest. APA offers industry standard terms for site licenses, including remote access, perpetual access, and ILL and electronic course reserves for full text. License fees cover unlimited access for all users affiliated with the institutional licensee.

## Questia

**Website:** [www.questia.com](http://www.questia.com)

**Parent company:** Cengage Learning

**Library markets:** academic/research, grades 9–12

**Platform type:** aggregator

**E-book type:** scholarly publications, monographs, reference books, encyclopedias

**Main subjects:** arts, humanities, social sciences, science, technology, medicine

**Background:** Questia is an online research and paper-writing resource that was founded in 1998 and acquired by Cengage Learning in 2010. It helps students at high school and college level find and cite scholarly research. Questia combines a library of 76,500 online books and 9 million full-text articles with tools that help students write research papers more efficiently. Topics covered include history, philosophy, economics, political science, English and literature, anthropology, psychology, and sociology, among many others. E-books are fully integrated with journal, magazine, and newspaper articles as well as encyclopedia entries.

**Business Model:** For high schools, the Questia School product can be purchased on an institutional or district level, with pricing based on the full-time equivalent (FTE) figure and individual accounts then created based on that figure. Within higher education, Questia can be purchased at a discount on an individual student basis when bundled with a Cengage print product or as part of a bulk distribution (with no minimum requirement). For Questia School, a minimum commitment of \$750 is required. Individuals may sign up for an annual membership for \$99.95, a semester membership for \$49.95,

or a monthly membership for \$19.95.

## R2 Digital Library

**Website:** <http://r2library.com>

**Parent company:** Rittenhouse Book Distributors

**Library markets:** academic/research, professional

**Platform type:** distributor/aggregator

**E-book type:** scholarly and professional literature, handbooks

**Main subjects:** medicine, nursing, health

**Background:** Launched in 2005, R2 Digital Library is a web-based platform that offers integrated and searchable medical and nursing and allied health book content from fifty health science publishers, including Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Delmar (Cengage Learning), Elsevier, Springer, Wiley, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. There are over 3,000 e-books on the platform, with more added each month. Key features include customized saved searches, images, references and bookmarks, an A–Z drug index, and an A–Z topic index. Content can be browsed by category, discipline, or title, and users can perform searches across the entire platform. A new version of the RD Digital Library launched in summer of 2012 and included the following enhancements: updated user interface, more faceted search tools, and expanded reading pane. Usage statistics are COUNTER-compliant and can be downloaded, printed, or e-mailed directly from the R2 Digital Library. The platform does not allow direct download of e-books, but the web-based application allows e-books to be accessed at any time. Users are able to print or e-mail portions of the R2 Digital Library by using the Tools icon located on the top navigation bar.

**Business Model:** R2 Digital Library e-books are sold individually by concurrent user license, allowing libraries to purchase only the titles they want to add to their collection. All e-books are purchased for the life of the edition with a one-time payment. When a new edition is released, libraries obtain access to an old edition via R2 Digital Library Archives. There is an annual \$1,200 maintenance fee that covers archiving, image hosting, etc. This fee is waived for the first year of usage and can be paid annually or monthly.

## Routledge Reference Online

**Website:** <http://routledgeonline.com>

**Parent company:** Taylor & Francis

**Library markets:** academic/research

**Platform type:** publisher

**E-book type:** encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks, companions

**Main subjects:** arts, humanities, social sciences

**Background:** Routledge Reference Online provides access to e-book versions of Routledge encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks, and companions in nine collections. In late 2011, the publisher added six new subject areas (education, history, literature, media and cultural studies, philosophy, and sociology) to complement the existing collections in music, politics, and religion. Each subject collection is regularly updated with new titles, and there are cross-reference links between all titles. Key features include regularly updated title lists, enabling a library's collection to grow under one subscription; federated search, allowing cross-searching across all subject collections; and COUNTER-compliant usage statistics. The product is expected to undergo a major revision in 2013.

**Business Model:** Routledge Reference Online is an annual subscription product. Libraries can subscribe to as many subject areas as they like, and subscriptions can begin and end at any time. The cost of an annual subscription varies by size of institution and number of concurrent users (usually running between \$600 and \$4,000), with options available for unlimited access.

## Safari Books Online

**Website:** [www.safaribooksonline.com](http://www.safaribooksonline.com)

**Parent company:** Safari Books Online LLC

**Library markets:** academic/research, public

**Platform type:** aggregator

**E-book type:** reference books, professional nonfiction

**Main subjects:** information technology, business, graphic design

**Background:** In 2001, two technology publishers, O'Reilly Media and Pearson Education, joined forces to create Safari Books Online. The goal was to compile the technology books of the two companies into an online database for technology, IT, and management professionals. Since then, Safari Books Online has grown into an interactive, on-demand e-book platform with embedded tools for finding and managing information by nearly 200 other publishers, among them Wiley, Microsoft Press, Cisco Press, Addison-Wesley, Adobe Press, and many others. Subscribers—including libraries, agencies, and business individuals—get online access to nearly 28,000 books, training videos, rough cuts, and short cuts. Content may be read on a computer or a mobile device, and it can be downloaded, saved, printed, or cached for offline reading. Subscriptions for academic and public libraries are available via ProQuest.

**Business Model:** The cost varies depending on type and level of subscription. Individual subscribers can choose between Safari Library (the all-you-can-eat model) for \$42.99 per month or the ten-slot book-

shelf model for \$27.99 per month. Workgroups of two to twenty-five members can sign up for a subscription online. The cost for a workgroup subscription is \$472.89 per user per year for a library subscription and \$299 per user per year for a bookshelf subscription. Enterprises or departments with twenty or more members are eligible for additional discounts. Prices vary depending upon the number of seats and content volume. Pricing is based on the number of concurrent seats and the volume of the content offered.

## SAGE Knowledge

**Website:** <http://knowledge.sagepub.com>

**Parent company:** SAGE Publications

**Library markets:** academic/research, corporate, public

**Platform type:** publisher

**E-book type:** reference books, monographs, handbooks, professional development titles

**Main subjects:** sociology, psychology, education, business, counseling, media communications

**Background:** SAGE Knowledge is an e-book platform billed as “the ultimate social sciences online library” for students, researchers, and faculty. The platform hosts 2,750 titles, which includes 300+ reference works (with 150 new titles added each year). Researchers can search across scholarly monographs, handbooks, reference books, and professional development titles. All of SAGE’s imprints are represented, including CQ Press and Corwin. Since the platform features full-text XML content, books and chapters are also fully searchable. With multiple ways to browse, users can elect to start a search by title, by author, or by subject on the homepage and drill down into select content from there. SAGE’s content is categorized into ten subject collections, from Sociology and Geography to Criminology to Health and Social Care. Key features include related content, personalized research, DOIs registered for each title and chapter (deposited in CrossRef), and unlimited simultaneous usage of all titles.

**Business Model:** The following models are available to libraries: full collection + annual top-ups; book collection + annual top-ups; reference collection + annual top-ups; subject collections + annual top-ups; reference mix-and-match title-by-title; and a subscription option.

## ScienceDirect

**Website:** [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

**Parent company:** Elsevier

**Library markets:** academic/research

**Platform type:** publisher

**E-book type:** monographs, handbooks, textbooks, ref-

erence books, professional books

**Main subjects:** science, technology, medicine

**Background:** ScienceDirect integrates articles and chapters from more than 2,500 journals and more than 11,000 e-books covering a broad range of scientific disciplines and including those published under the Academic Press and Pergamon imprints. The platform offers search and retrieval functionality and a host of new tools that allow users to access content at an early publication stage; download, store, and print it; or pass it on to colleagues. Since 2003, authors have been able to submit extra value-added content associated with their research, including audio and video files, datasets, and other supplementary content. In one access point, users access all of Elsevier’s monographs, series books, handbooks, and reference works, which are fully integrated with journal articles.

**Business Model:** E-books are available in collections and on a pick-and-choose basis. Libraries may purchase books on ScienceDirect regardless of whether they already have an institutional ScienceDirect agreement. Existing ScienceDirect customers receive an amendment to existing contract agreements. New customers who sign up for only the e-books portion of the platform need to pay an annual maintenance fee of 5 percent of the purchased value. Online-only access to books is purchased separately from print versions. The fee is charged according to the number of full-time equivalents (FTEs) within an institution.

## Sharpe Online Reference (SOLR)

**Website:** <http://sharpe-online.com>

**Parent company:** ME Sharpe, Inc.

**Library markets:** academic/research, public, grades 9–12

**Platform type:** publisher

**E-book type:** reference books

**Main subjects:** social sciences

**Background:** SOLR offers a multidisciplinary perspective on US and global history and culture and analysis of cultural, social, political, and economic aspects of history from earliest times to the present via nearly thirty multivolume reference books (among them Colonial America and the Encyclopedia of World Trade). Included are thousands of articles and images, along with thousands of bibliographies and weblinks. Content is reviewed and updated annually at no charge to libraries to ensure currency. New titles are also added annually. Supplementary resources include a multimedia primary source archive, Web Links in History, and teachers’ resources. Key features include quick search, search within results, multiple search refinements (articles, docu-

ments, images, chronologies, and more), topic finder, and image gallery.

**Business Model:** SOLR titles are available for one-time purchase with no annual fees. Titles can be purchased individually or in cost-saving US or global packages (25 percent discount). The complete collection is further discounted (30 percent). Multiple title discounts are also available: three to five titles (10 percent), six to nine titles (15 percent), and ten+ titles (25 percent). Further discounts apply when print and online are ordered together. Tiered pricing is based on number of schools per district, academic FTE, and public library population served. Purchase price includes extensive supplementary resources including primary source archives and free annual updates.

## SpringerLink

**Website:** <http://link.springer.com>

**Parent company:** Springer Science + Business Media

**Library markets:** academic/research, corporate, government

**Platform type:** publisher/aggregator

**E-book type:** reference books, series books, monographs, textbooks

**Main subjects:** science, technology, medicine

**Background:** SpringerLink is an integrated full-text database for journals, books, protocols, reference works, and book series by forty publishers. It comprises thousands of peer-reviewed journals and 88,000 e-books (translating to about 6 million research documents). Libraries may opt to purchase Springer Book Archives within the platform, which includes German economics books by Gabler, the US information technology publisher Apress, and the US nonfiction publisher Copernicus Publications. The following subjects are covered, among others: biomedical sciences, business and management, chemistry, energy, engineering, environmental sciences, mathematics, and statistics. Medical books account for the largest share of the book archives, at over 20 percent. All content can be viewed in PDF, and a significant portion of newer content is also available in full-text HTML. The content is accessible on mobile devices. There is no separate mobile site, but the site adapts to each screen appropriately.

**Business Model:** Springer e-books are offered as an annual package, whereby libraries and institutions can purchase either the entire annual collection or any number of subject collections. Full archiving rights with continuous access to purchased content are free through SpringerLink as long as the subscribing institution's account remains active with Springer.

## SpringerReference

**Website:** <http://springerreference.com>

**Parent company:** Springer Science + Business Media

**Library markets:** academic/research, corporate

**Platform type:** publisher

**E-book type:** encyclopedias, handbooks, dictionaries, bibliographies

**Main subjects:** science, technology, medicine

**Background:** Designed to keep content current, SpringerReference contains the latest and forthcoming reference works from the SpringerReference program. It is published as a live web resource, with full text made accessible to subscribing institutions. What sets it apart from other scholarly platforms is the feature that allows authors to track and publish changes to their articles or charts in near-real time. Reference books on SpringerReference are complementary to those found on SpringerLink (above). While SpringerLink's reference books are static, SpringerReference's are continually updated. The content is vetted by experts in various disciplines and monitored by an editorial board. The platform also provides researchers with the first look at new reference books before they appear in print or on the SpringerLink platform. There are no DRM restrictions. Individuals have the option to save or print the PDF of an article.

**Business Model:** SpringerReference is available through two business models: a stand-alone subscription model with an annual, tiered subscription fee or a subscription at a reduced rate in combination with other Springer e-book deals.

## StarWalk Kids Media

**Website:** <http://starwalkkids.com>

**Parent company:** Seymour Science LLC

**Library markets:** K-12, public

**Platform type:** distributor

**E-book type:** children's illustrated books and chapter books

**Main subjects:** YA fiction, science, social studies, language arts

**Background:** StarWalk Kids Media is a new provider of K-12 e-books (149 at launch, 400 by June 2013) for schools and libraries. Its digital collection delivers e-book titles from a variety of children's book authors and illustrators. Each title has been created for a digital reading experience: children can read for themselves, read along at their own pace accompanied by professional narration, or follow the narration throughout the book for a read-to-me experience. The titles (a mix of fiction and nonfiction) support the Common Core State Standards and are recommended to libraries as

alternatives to more expensive platforms. The company's proprietary, browser-based StarWalk Reader software works on any device, including desktop and laptop computers, interactive whiteboards, and tablets with Internet connections. The company is currently in negotiations with several children's book publishers for rights to bring their titles into the platform.

**Business Model:** The collection is sold by annual subscription for schools and libraries. Streaming access is provided to subscribers anywhere that the user has Internet connectivity. Since this is a streaming, subscription-based platform, StarWalk does not limit the number of users who can access a single title at the same time. Instead a username/password authentication scheme is used, so an entire class with an active subscription can read the same book at the same time without any check-in/check-out restrictions or waiting lists. Subscription plans for institutions start at \$595 per year for a single school and are based on cardholder population or FTEs for public and university libraries.

## Storia

**Website:** <http://scholastic.com/storia>

**Parent company:** Scholastic, Inc.

**Library markets:** Pre K–grade 8

**Platform type:** publisher

**E-book type:** picture books, transitional chapter books, middle fiction, YA nonfiction

**Main subjects:** general

**Background:** Storia is Scholastic's free e-reading app designed to help kids learn in an interactive way. The initial download comes with five free titles, with thousands of additional titles available for purchase. There is also a selection of "enriched" e-books that include learning activities within each story to boost comprehension and reading retention. Other features include "Read-to-Me" audio narration; study tools such as the Highlighter and Note-Taker; and the Storia Dictionary, a customized, age-appropriate dictionary that is embedded into each story. Educators are able to set up personalized bookshelves and assign e-books to each shelf to guarantee a customized experience for every reader. Each bookshelf is also linked to the Reading Reports feature, which allows educators to track reading progress by following metrics such as, for example, the number of e-books opened and words looked up and average Guided Reading or Lexile levels. The app is available for iPad, PC, and select Android tablets, with more platforms on the horizon in and beyond 2013.

**Business Model:** Storia e-books may be purchased in several ways. Classroom eCollections, discounted bun-

dles of specially selected e-books by grade range, are available for purchase online at [www.scholastic.com/storia-classroom](http://www.scholastic.com/storia-classroom) or through purchase orders, which may be downloaded on the Scholastic website. Librarians can also purchase e-books individually through the Scholastic Store online or through Scholastic Book Clubs. All Storia e-books ordered through book clubs earn the educator bonus points that can be redeemed for books, e-books, or professional resources. Bulk orders can also be customized on an ad hoc basis.

## SwetsWise

**Website:** <http://swets.com/ebooks>

**Parent company:** Swets Information Services

**Library markets:** academic/research, corporate, government

**Platform type:** distributor

**E-book type:** scholarly publications

**Main subjects:** all

**Background:** Swets, a division of Swets Information Services, develops content management solutions for libraries, end users, and publishers. SwetsWise, the company's catalog of over 1 million e-books, is updated with new titles and partners continuously. Librarians can use SwetsWise's integrated selection tools to find the best offer (from both publishers and aggregators) and then acquire the titles they want. A single interface is used to select and manage journals and e-books. Full-text access is then provided through the online content delivery platform that the library chooses. Librarians may locate titles using basic and advanced search functionalities, including the option to search on the basis of the print ISBN. SwetsWise also provides a host of optional services for libraries, including an A–Z overview of a library's holdings, allowing patrons to jump to the full text on the platform of choice. In addition, SwetsWise provides a federated search service, allowing patrons to obtain relevant search results from all content delivery platforms from a single interface.

**Business Model:** Through SwetsWise, librarians can purchase both individual titles and e-book collections under the same pricing and purchase models as offered through the publishers and aggregators directly. Popular acquisition models include pick-and-choose in perpetuity; subject collections in perpetuity; patron-driven collections through aggregators in perpetuity; and annual subscription collections.

## Taylor & Francis eBooks

**Website:** [www.tandfebooks.com](http://www.tandfebooks.com)

**Parent company:** Taylor & Francis



**Library markets:** academic/research, corporate, government, public

**Platform type:** publisher

**E-book type:** companions, handbooks, monographs, reference books, textbooks

**Main subjects:** STM, behavioral sciences, humanities, law, social sciences

**Background:** Live since August 2012, Taylor & Francis's e-book platform brings together academic content of three of its well-known imprints: Routledge, Focal Press, and Psychology Press. The platform currently has over 30,000 e-books covering the humanities, social sciences, behavioral sciences, STM, and law. The collection is due to grow to around 50,000 e-books by the end of 2013. Key features include annotation tools, full-text searching, and unrestricted printing and copy/paste options for 75 percent of e-books; for the 25 percent of the titles with DRM protection, there is a copy/paste allowance of 1,000 words per user session and a print allowance of 30 pages per user session. Users can drill down from content in headline subject areas to titles in specific niche topics and build a short list of relevant titles. Librarians looking for complementary materials to university courses should also consider investing in Taylor & Francis's eFocus packages. These are made up of titles hand-picked by the internal editorial teams and cover, among other topics, the environment, globalization, urban studies, and human rights.

**Business Model:** A range of flexible purchase options are available for institution access. Librarians may choose to subscribe or purchase content outright, invest in "great-value-for-money" subject collections, or pick and mix individual titles. Libraries that subscribe to the archive and subscription packages gain free access to all of the backlist titles while retaining permanent access to the frontlist titles during the life of the subscription.

## TrueFlix

**Website:** <http://trueflix.scholastic.com>

**Parent company:** Scholastic, Inc.

**Library markets:** grades 3–8, public

**Platform type:** publisher

**E-book type:** children's nonfiction

**Main subjects:** social studies, science

**Background:** Delivered completely over the Internet, TrueFlix is based on the nonfiction content from Children's Press print book series *True Books*, and its digital backbone is modeled after the BookFlix digital platform. It consists of over eighty e-books and a corresponding number of lesson plans, project ideas, and videos; 1,345+ articles from Grolier Online; 760+ vetted weblinks; 500+ primary sources; and 168

open-ended questions for teachers to use to encourage classroom discussion. Used individually by students or in a classroom with a whiteboard, the platform is designed to teach the inquiry method to younger researchers, and it is fully aligned with Common Core State Standards.

**Business Model:** Access to the platform may be purchased through Scholastic Library Publishing only. Annual subscription for school and public libraries includes unlimited, 24/7 multiuser simultaneous and remote access from home. Annual platform fees apply for subscriptions. No purchase-to-own option is available.

## University Press Scholarship Online (UPS O)

**Website:** [www.universitypressscholarship.com](http://www.universitypressscholarship.com)

**Parent company:** Oxford University Press

**Library markets:** academic/research

**Platform type:** university press consortium

**E-book type:** scholarly monograph

**Main subjects:** humanities, social sciences

**Background:** UPSO is a partnership between Oxford University Press and a number of university presses—including Fordham, University of Florida, Stanford University, the American University in Cairo, Edinburgh University, Hong Kong University, and Manchester University—to aggregate monograph content into a single, cross-searchable platform featuring XML. Oxford University Press set the stage for digitization of scholarly monographs in 2003 with the launch of Oxford Scholarship Online, now fully integrated with the monograph content of eleven (and counting) partner presses on the new UPSO platform. The platform offers well over 1,000 titles available in twenty-four subject areas and over 300 subdisciplines. Subjects covered include law, music, physics, religion, biology, philosophy, mathematics, history, and business and management, among others. New, recently published, or not-yet-published-in-print content is added to the platform three times a year: in January, May, and September.

**Business Model:** UPSO pricing is based on the print list price of the books that an institution buys access to, which increases based on the size of the institution's FTE. UPSO provides a number of content collections available by publisher, by subject area (e.g., history), and/or by subcategory (e.g., nineteenth century American history). All collections are available by perpetual access (giving institutions unlimited use rights) or annual subscription. New university press sites are launched on the platform throughout the year, and title lists for these launches are available six to eight months in advance.

## University Publishing Online

**Website:** <http://universitypublishingonline.org>

**Parent company:** Cambridge University Press

**Library markets:** academic/research, public

**Platform type:** university press consortium

**E-book type:** monographs, textbooks, professional books

**Main subjects:** humanities, social sciences, science and engineering, medicine

**Background:** The result of a joint venture between Cambridge University Press and partner publishers—including Liverpool University, Mathematical Association of America, University of Adelaide Press, Boydell & Brewer, and others—University Publishing Online integrates scholarly books (including textbooks and professional books) with journal articles on a single platform. The platform offers 22,000 titles covering the strength subjects of the partner presses: anthropology, fine arts, classical studies, computer science, environmental science, education, engineering, performing arts, geography, history, language and linguistics, law, management, mathematics, medicine, philosophy, politics and international relations, and sociology. New titles are added on a monthly basis.

**Business Model:** Two purchasing plans are available, each involving multiuser concurrent access and minimal DRM. Libraries can purchase predefined subject collections or assemble custom packages. Purchasing plans include a perpetual access model (buy content once and then own continuing access), approval plans, advance ordering, and annual subscription (with a subscribe-to-buy option).

## UPCC Book Collections on Project MUSE

**Website:** <http://muse.jhu.edu>

**Parent company:** Johns Hopkins University Press

**Library markets:** academic/research, public

**Platform type:** university press consortium

**E-book type:** monographs, scholarly publications

**Main subjects:** social sciences, arts, humanities

**Background:** The University Press Content Consortium (UPCC) brings together over 20,000 e-books from more than eighty university presses and related scholarly publishers, available on the same platform with MUSE's more than 500 scholarly journals. Key features include unlimited simultaneous usage of book content, no DRM or restrictions on printing or downloading, COUNTER-compliant usage statistics, free MARC records, books released electronically simultaneously with print publication, DOIs at title and chapter level, books in chapter-level PDF format, and mobile access to books on any PDF-compatible device. Librar-

ies are able to access information on title availability from various UPCC presses through GOBI3 (Global Online Bibliographic Information), YBP's acquisition and collection management interface. Libraries can elect to receive new title notifications from GOBI3 or have titles automatically delivered by the MUSE platform through YBP's eApproval program.

**Business Model:** UPCC e-books are available via two subscription options. The Current Subscription option provides access to all UPCC books in MUSE published or due to publish in 2011, 2012, and 2013. The Archival Subscription option provides access to all e-books published prior to 2011. Purchase options for both current and archival collections include complete, subject, area studies, and annual supplemental collections. Individual e-book purchasing will be available in 2013.

## Wheelers ePlatform

**Website:** [www.eplatform.co](http://www.eplatform.co)

**Parent company:** Wheelers Books

**Library markets:** public, K-12

**Platform type:** distributor/e-book lending service

**E-book type:** popular fiction and nonfiction, educational materials

**Main subjects:** all

**Background:** This library lending service hosts and facilitates the lending and downloading of e-book titles using the Adobe DRM platform. With over 800 publishers profiled, ePlatform is available in over 500 libraries in ten countries, including Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Ireland, and more recently, the United States. Notable features include free set-up options, no annual fees, and no minimum buying requirements. Other features include flexible administration control over loan parameters (from one to sixty days) and on reserves/holds. Librarians can restrict borrowing of titles by age or year at school, download usage reports, and profile their own digital content from their local community. Libraries can also integrate free e-books from Project Gutenberg into their catalogs for simultaneous use.

**Business Model:** Wheelers e-books are purchased at the digital list price together with a one-off \$2 hosting/DRM fee per e-book. After that there are no annual fees and no minimum purchase requirements. It is therefore possible to set up for free and buy only one title if a library chooses.

## Wiley Online Library

**Website:** <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com>

**Parent company:** John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

**Library markets:** academic/research

**Platform type:** publisher

**E-book type:** scholarly handbooks, companions, professional books, reference books

**Main subjects:** life, health, and physical sciences; social sciences; humanities

**Background:** Wiley-Blackwell, the scholarly publishing business of John Wiley & Sons, publishes nearly 1,500 peer-reviewed journals and over 1,500 books annually in print and online. Its online portal, Wiley Online Library (WOL), is a multidisciplinary collection of resources covering the sciences, social sciences, and humanities. The “book” module of WOL, Wiley Online Books (WOB), provides access to over 12,000 scholarly books that are integrated with the journals, hundreds of multivolume reference works, laboratory protocols, and databases via CrossRef, within and outside WOL. The books are available in sixty-seven subject collections, which include titles published through 2011. Notable features include OpenURL with links and DOIs, no DRM restrictions on downloads and printing, COUNTER-compliant usage data, and enhanced MARC Records from OCLC at no extra charge.

**Business Model:** Wiley books can be added to a library collection in three ways: one-time fee option (pay once for perpetual access to all the books you buy with no further surcharges); an annual flexible subscription (pay an annual fee for one calendar year, subscribe to any title for three consecutive years, qualify for an auto-purchase feature); or Article Select Tokens and pay-per-view (use tokens or pay with credit card to access book chapters for up to twenty-four hours). Tokens may be purchased on a prepaid, deposit account basis, with a minimum purchase of 100.

## World Book Web

**Website:** <http://worldbook.com>

**Parent company:** World Book, Inc.

**Library markets:** public, K–12, academic/research

**Platform type:** publisher

**E-book type:** encyclopedias, dictionaries, research guides

**Main subjects:** all

**Background:** The World Book Web (WBW) is a complex suite of research tools that includes access to e-books, encyclopedia articles, primary source collections, educator tools, student activities, pictures, and audio and videos. WBW’s modules include World Book Web for Schools (which includes products like World Book Kids, World Book Student, and World Book Advanced, with access to over 5,000 full-length e-books), World Book Online for Public Libraries (which includes products like World Book Online Info Finder and World Book Online Reference Center [WBORC]), World Book Classroom (e.g., Social Studies Power, Activity Corner), and specialty sites like World Book Mobile and Academic World Book. Most of the products on WBW include a range of e-books (for all levels and covering a variety of subjects) that are fully integrated with multimedia, primary and secondary source databases, and the World Book Encyclopedia. Key features include computer and web tutorials for the novice researcher, interactive maps and atlases, research tools that include a built-in dictionary, a citation builder, and local and country research guides.

**Business Model:** Several subscription packages are available for purchasing institutions and include stand-alone and add-on options. A dedicated training website (<http://worldbookonline.com/training/index.htm>) has been designed to provide a breakdown of all available products and services within the WBW suite.