

BOARD RESOLUTION OF THE OHIO LIBRARY COUNCIL

PASSED ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2019

WHEREAS, Ohio's public libraries currently serve more than 8.5 million cardholders and have the highest use per capita in the nation; and

WHEREAS, millions of Ohioans now use digital content as their preferred or only access to books, music, and movies; and

WHEREAS, digital content must be accessible to all people, regardless of personal income or physical or reading ability; and

WHEREAS, Ohioans downloaded more than 22 million eBooks and eAudiobooks in 2018 from public libraries across the state; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. publishing industry earned \$25.83 billion in revenue in 2018, with downloaded audio experiencing 28.7% growth over 2017; and

WHEREAS, the major publishers have recently announced new policies for eBooks and eAudiobooks that severely limits public libraries' ability to purchase, or delays the purchase, of digital copies of materials and information; and

WHEREAS, these restrictive policies directly impact the ability of public libraries to serve all Ohioans and adequately provide access to materials and information; and

WHEREAS, the new eBook and eAudiobook policies represent a significant financial burden impacting taxpayer supported public libraries' overall operations and services, spending millions of dollars in 2018 on eBooks and eAudiobooks; and

WHEREAS, these arbitrary limitations make it difficult for libraries to fulfill their central mission of ensuring access to information for all and regardless of socioeconomic status; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED on this day September 13, 2019, that we, the Board of Directors of the Ohio Library Council call upon publishers, specifically Blackstone Audio, Hachette, Macmillan, and Simon & Schuster, to reconsider these recently announced restrictive and onerous policies and engage in a meaningful and direct dialogue with libraries, library consortia, library associations, authors, and other relevant stakeholders for the purpose of creating new policies that ensure equitable access to all of Ohio's citizens.