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CAN'T FIND YOUR FAVORITE AUTHOR AS AN EBOOK?

HARRISBURG, PA - Many people who received an e-reader for the holidays may be frustrated when they try to find their favorite author in their library's collection of downloadable books. And libraries are just as frustrated, citing practices by publishers that are not consistent with a fair and open marketplace. The libraries in Dauphin and Cumberland counties are committed to ensuring that users have the same open, easy and free access to ebooks that they have come to rely on with physical books.

To that end the library systems face two major challenges. The first is that, unlike print books, many publishers refuse to sell ebooks to libraries. Others sell them to libraries at inflated prices, sometimes 100 – 300% more, or with borrowing restrictions that require libraries to purchase the same title again and again.

The second challenge is that the products currently offered by e-content distributors, the middlemen from whom libraries buy ebooks, create a fragmented, disjointed and cumbersome experience for users. To correct this, libraries are demanding e-content providers to be willing partners, and offer products that allow users to more easily access the e-content they want on the device they choose.

Cumberland and Dauphin County Library Systems, along with more than 200 other library systems across the country, are working together to demand improved ebook services and availability for library users. To learn more about the ebook challenges facing libraries and how you might be able to help visit dcls.org/missingtitles or cumberlandcountylibraries.org/missingtitles.

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