

## #Ebooksos Background Reading

### Key reading for context (UK perspective)

**Note:** This list looks lengthy but most of the resources are quick to read.

1) This spreadsheet is an anonymous, crowdsourced spreadsheet compiled by UK librarians during the COVID pandemic to gather evidence of the stark difficulties they face when trying to supply ebooks to students. It is an excellent primer. The “notes” section (Column P) adds important detail.

**Anonymous (2020) Ebook campaign examples.**

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ix8AkrDisZnQ9TEPD0wFtPdG8to9WQ28l0qAqJ9ZO10/edit?usp=sharing> (crowdsourced), Accessed 18 March 2022

2) The data on the above spreadsheet bought mainstream media attention to the ebook crisis. These articles from the Guardian Newspaper and BBC News illustrate the impasse reached between librarians and publishers

**Fazackerley, A. (2021) ‘Price gouging from Covid’: student ebooks costing up to 500% more than in print’, *The Guardian*, 29 January.**

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/jan/29/price-gouging-from-covid-student-ebooks-costing-up-to-500-more-than-in-print>

**Hotten, R. (2020) University staff urge probe into e-book pricing 'scandal', *BBC News*, 13 November.**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-54922764>

3) This piece by Benjamin White of The Centre for Intellectual Property Policy & Management, Bournemouth University, gives an overview of the European context. Of note is the section ***Netherlands and the European Court of Justice*** which has essential information about the legal view of the European Justice on e-lending. Please do read this section at the very least.

**White, B. (2020) ‘European Libraries and eBooks - RIP the ‘public library as we know it?’, *National Diet Library of Japan*, CA1979e, No.344, 20 June, [https://current.ndl.go.jp/en/ca1979\\_en](https://current.ndl.go.jp/en/ca1979_en)**

**Note:** If you have time and are interested in reading more on the ebook ‘crisis’ please have a look at the following. Again, they are all short in length

### The wider picture

4) Several notable international organizations wrote position statements about the ebook market. They are important because they illustrate the mood of the sector and the increasing urgency and pressure building against publishers for change. Furthermore, these organizations have the potential to influence policymakers.

**Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), (2020) Pandemic amplifies trouble with restrictive licensing and e-textbooks, 2 October, <https://sparcopen.org/news/2020/pandemic-amplifies-trouble-with-restrictive-licensing-and-e-textbooks>**

Knowledge Rights 21 (2021) 'Publishers, authors and booksellers should not become your librarians' <https://www.knowledgerights21.org/news-story/publishers-authors-and-booksellers-should-not-become-your-librarians/> accessed 18 March 2022

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (2021), IFLA Statement on Controlled Digital Lending <https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/1835>

The Society of College, National and University 'Libraries Joint statement on access to e-book and e-textbook content' *SCONUL* (2021) <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/joint-statement-on-access-to-e-book-and-e-textbook-content> accessed 19 March 2022

### **Action being taken in jurisdictions other than UK**

5) Calls for change can be heard globally. Here are a few examples. Irish and American information professionals have been working closely with UK counterparts, though contexts are different, the challenges are similar

McCauly, C (2021). The #ebooksos campaign in Ireland, *Libfocus*, 11 March, <https://www.libfocus.com/2021/03/the-ebooksos-campaign-in-ireland.html>

In Germany e-books is a topic for action as outlined in the coalition agreement. We see questions now being asked in Parliament on e-books. (Written in German) 'Loans of e-books by libraries and fixing of library royalties'

Amira Mohamed Ali, Dr. Dietmar Bartsch und Fraktion (2022) Verleih von E-Books durch Bibliotheken und Festsetzung von Bibliothekstantiemen, *Deutscher Bundestag*, Drucksache 20/859, 1 March 2022 <https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/20/008/2000859.pdf>

There has been a lot of activity in the USA regarding ebooks and libraries right to lend, much of it litigious. This is an overview.

Every Library Institute (2022) The evolution of ebook bills, *Every Library Institute*, 9 March, [https://www.everylibraryinstitute.org/evolution\\_ebook\\_bills](https://www.everylibraryinstitute.org/evolution_ebook_bills)

International Statement of solidarity, *Library Futures*, <https://www.libraryfutures.net/international-statement-of-solidarity> Accessed 19 March 2022

Finally, there is more information about #ebooksos campaign in the UK here on our website

<https://academicebookinvestigation.org>