

As both a consumer and a school librarian, I would like to express my frustration and concern regarding publishers' stance on digital content and transferability.

It has always been (in the case of physical items) permissible for someone to share or pass along books, music and movies. As a librarian, this is one of the central ideals of our lending model.

Publishers have made arbitrary and unreasonable rules about how many times a digital copy can be used/read/borrowed before it must be repurchased. Any librarian can tell you that their most popular items tend to be borrowed hundreds of times without the book falling apart and being unusable.

Likewise, publishers have restricted the common consumer from buying and then lending their ebooks to others. This is silly and makes no sense; we're not talking about apples and oranges but Granny Smiths and Macintoshes. A book is a book is a book whether in print or digital form. For publishers to control who can borrow my ebook or who can read my textbook when I'm done is an unfair practice and one which the Department of Commerce should stand with the interests of the many rather than the few.

Thank you for your time and consideration, [cid:3467115342_6788538]

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I divide all readers into two classes: Those who read to remember and those who read to forget. --
William Phelps