

Hello,

I am writing in support of a strong first sale doctrine in the digital e-book environment. Presently, nearly all publishers and e-book vendors sell consumers and organizations e-book licenses, rather than the e-books themselves. Because of this licensing mechanism, libraries and consumers concerned about owning what they buy are unable to purchase most popular e-books by legitimate means. Most of the larger publishers (4 of 6) refuse to sell these licenses to libraries at all and the two that do charge exorbitant prices or attach excessively onerous terms that would be untenable in a typical non-monopolistic environment.

I see a strong first sale doctrine as a necessary component of a healthy, and competitive publisher/vendor/consumer marketplace.

Thank you,

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