

October 2, 2019

MontanaLibrary2Go committees meeting to address Macmillan embargo

Online via GoToMeeting

Members of the selection and executive committees met online to discuss the upcoming Macmillan embargo and how it will impact our selection process. Here is a summary of the discussion:

**The problem:** Macmillan is starting an embargo on new ebook titles beginning November 1. We will only be allowed to purchase one copy for the entire consortium for the first 8 weeks.

The new terms go into effect on November 1, 2019 and will limit libraries to a single, discounted copy of all new Macmillan ebook titles for the first eight weeks after their publication, a copy they will have perpetual access to. After the embargo has passed, libraries will be able to purchase additional copies at a higher price, under metered terms.

**Why this is a problem:** Holds management will not be possible; unhappy patrons

**Options:**

1. Do nothing.
  - Consequences: enormous holds queue, unhappy patrons.
  
2. Boycott Macmillan and its imprints.
  - Consequences: would probably be very difficult for selection team to track. We need more information from OverDrive about how the selection process will change for these titles.
  
3. Consider Advantage as an option for increasing copies within the consortium IF we can ensure equitable access to titles for all member libraries. We need more information from OverDrive. This would need to go before the membership.

Consequences: would require a vote to approve a procedural change; uncertain whether this option would help improve access for all libraries.

**Actions/next steps:**

The selection committee will need the answers to the questions about OverDrive process and capability before they can decide how to proceed with this and next month's purchasing (as pertains to November releases). We will get answers from OverDrive ASAP.

Committee members and MSL staff will research how other state libraries, consortia, and publishers are reacting to this decision.

Committee members will prepare talking points for patrons and a more in-depth explanation for library staff. We will ask OverDrive how they can help us to communicate this change to our patrons.

We will schedule another all-committee meeting before the October purchasing deadline.

At this meeting the committees need to determine:

- Plan A: If OverDrive can easily or automatically identify Macmillan/imprint titles for us
- Plan B: If they can't