

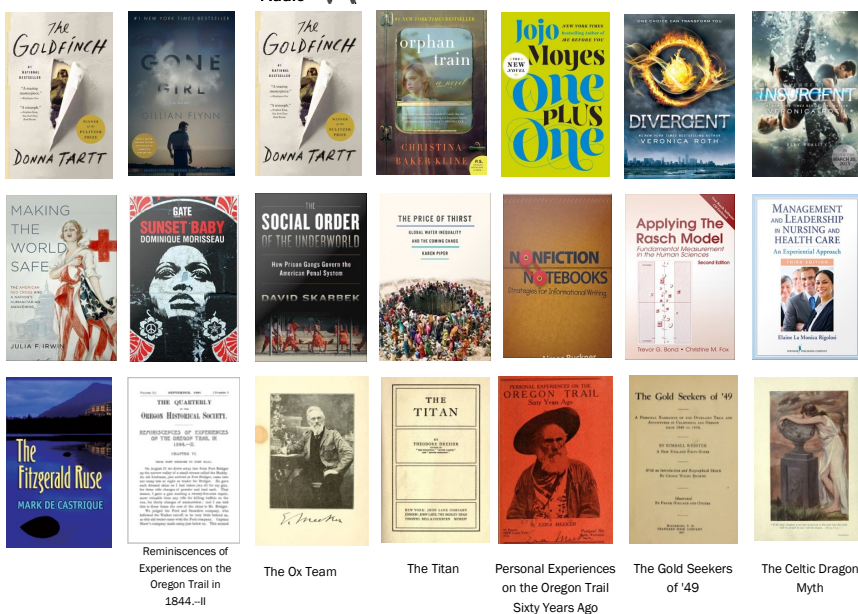
THE eBook CONNECTION

APRIL 2015

A Taste of eBooks

There are currently 6,517 Axis 360, 34,998 BiblioBoard and 134,881 EBL titles in the program. These were the most popular titles in March 2015:

Audio 



Submit Your Success Story

We would love to hear from our member libraries! Send us your success story and we will feature one or more of your tales here every issue.

Email us at:

scoullard@masslibsystem.org

I Found It!

Derek, one of our high school juniors, was reading a sample chapter of *American Sniper* and wanted the rest of it. I told him I would include it in my current book order which would take about two weeks. He said thanks but didn't seem enthusiastic. Derek started to walk away when I remembered the Commonwealth eBook Collection! Ten minutes later, he was happily reading chapter two of the book. A couple of days later another student came to me asking for a "phone book," and he was not looking for the yellow pages. My students like instant gratification.

I like the way the Common eBook Collection has exponentially increased my small school library collection. I had a Spanish teacher assign a project requiring something on the topic of "mariachi music" and we were able to find an entire chapter devoted to the topic, thanks to EBL.

Teachers at my school like that students can simultaneously use the BiblioBoard component of the eBook collection. Our brand new class, "History of Espionage and Spying" doesn't have a textbook, so how convenient that every student in the class can access the [History of Espionage: Spycraft Through the Ages](#) collection at the same time for their research. The library is working with another social studies teacher on a bias unit using [biographical graphic novels of political commentators](#). The class is looking forward to the smack down between Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert, Glenn Beck and Bill O'Reilly.

Patricia London, Library Director
Avon Middle High School

News from MLS

eBook Program Portal!

You can find everything that you need to make the best of the Commonwealth eBook program.

guides.masslibsystem.org/ebooks

Commonwealth eBook Collection User Groups!

Join us for the first user group meeting of the Commonwealth eBook Collections. Meet with your colleagues, share ideas and learn what's on the horizon for the program.

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Recent Headlines

A Q&A with OverDrive's CEO regarding the company's recent acquisition by online retail giant Rakuten

Steve Potash founded OverDrive in 1986 and built it into the predominant provider of ebooks, audiobooks, and other digital media for American libraries and schools. It is estimated that OverDrive has about 90% of the US public library market. So when the company announced March 19 that it would be purchased by Rakuten—a large international online retailer and e-content provider based in Japan—there were plenty of questions about what it will mean to libraries and to library users. Click [HERE](#) for the full story in *American Libraries*.

Unconventional Outreach

Ignacio Albarracin, digital services coordinator at San Antonio Public Library (SAPL), knew the library's digital resources were woefully underused. Albarracin wanted to change that. "We decided...to target potential users in a strategic setting where we could get [their] full attention—San Antonio International Airport," he says. Click [HERE](#) for the full story in *Library Journal*

James Patterson pledges \$1.25 million to school libraries

Just a few months ago, James Patterson finished giving away \$1 million to more than 175 independent bookstores nationwide. Now, the bestselling thriller writer is turning to schools with a similar grant program. Monday morning, Patterson announced his plan to give away \$1.25 million to school libraries. In partnership with children's publisher Scholastic, he will make individual donations of \$1,000 to \$10,000. Click [HERE](#) for the full story in the *Library Journal*.

Materials Breakout | Materials Survey 2015

Here's the good news: respondents to *LJ's* annual materials survey of U.S. public libraries nationwide report that their materials budgets are up 3%, averaging \$807,000 overall and ranging from \$30,000 on average for libraries serving populations under 10,000 to \$4,437,000 for libraries serving populations over 500,000. Click [HERE](#) for the full story in the *Library Journal*.

At PubSense In Charleston: Checking Out Indies' Ebooks With SELF-e

You'd think — who wouldn't? — that libraries were the place to find everything bookish. The assumption gains new interest with the news that the Cleveland-based OverDrive, leading distributor of ebooks to libraries, has been bought by Tokyo's Rakuten, which also owns the Canadian ebook retailer Kobo and its self-publishing platform, Kobo Writing Life. Click [HERE](#) for the full article in *Thought Catalog*.

Hachette Head on Amazon, E-Books, Bookstores

In an in-depth interview with *Livres Hebdo* (via the Bookseller), Arnaud Nourry, chairman and CEO of Hachette Livre, discussed last year's battle with Amazon, the e-book market, and much more. Among his comments:

"The question [in the dispute with Amazon] was whether the publisher or the retailer should fix selling prices for electronic books (and take account of the fact that many decisions taken in the United States have an impact elsewhere). I regret that this discussion took the form of a conflict, and I am delighted that we have resolved it." Click [HERE](#) for the full article in *Shelf Awareness*.

Friendly Faces



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