

The Mary MacKillop Library eBooks Policy

The global eBook market is under constant change and development. Considerable growth has occurred in recent years and the availability of books in digital format, which are suitable for a secondary school, are becoming more prevalent. The Library also recognises that different access models may have advantages, including:

- Access to resources, regardless of location, 24 x 7
- Delivery of information that is direct to library patrons

Acquisition

The following guidelines are used when considering eBook purchases:

- **Equivalence** – The electronic version of any ebook must be at least equal in content and quality when compared to the print version.
- **Price** – The subscription cost should ideally be no greater than the print version.
- **Long term access** – the Library prefers at all times outright purchase (perpetual access) rather than subscription or lease of eBooks.
- eBooks should be able to be read on **multiple devices** and without the need for additional software.
- As with print books, textbooks are not normally considered appropriate for our collections. Library resources should build-on and extend the material found in any prescribed text.

Electronic titles are usually purchased as single titles. The Library has a list of preferred vendors; though acquisition from non-preferred vendors is possible after thorough investigation.

Access

- Preference will always be given to vendors whose products are able to be accessed via **LDAP authentication**.
- All eBook titles should be entered into the Library catalogue and made available via our **MARC records** and the **856 tag**. Staff and students should be able to access them with one search across the entire Library print and book collections in the library catalogue.

Digital Rights Management

Digital Rights Management (DRM) is complex and preference is given to vendors who may charge, but manage DRM for the Library as part of any purchase.