



# **Final Report of the 2018 ALA-ASGCLA National Ebook Summit**

**January 22, 2019**

## Executive Summary

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A National Ebook Summit was convened at the 2018 American Library Association Annual Conference to discuss challenges and opportunities in the library ebook marketplace. The summit represents the work of thought leaders throughout the industry from libraries, library consortia, publishers, distributors and other experts. It was sponsored by the American Library Association and its Association for Specialized, Government and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASGCLA) division and emerged from conversations among members of ASGCLA's Consortial Ebooks Interest Group.

### Summit Goals

- To create a national agenda for ebooks,
- To create synergy among people, organizations and initiatives in the ebook marketplace,
- To build consensus on ebook strategy and principles and
- To establish a working platform for constructive and meaningful dialogue, strategy development and progress.

### The National Agenda for Ebooks

The summit itself was a working day organized around five themes established by an advisory committee that helped to shape the day and the national agenda that follows.

#### Licensing Models

*Having more flexibility to choose from among different models in order to meet different usage and circulation patterns.*

1. Work with industry partners to push for the adoption of the current [ONIX 3.0 standard](#) to accommodate multiple licensing models per item and to provide input in ongoing development of the standard.
2. Nurture results-oriented dialogue among publishers and librarians to optimize available licensing models to best meet library and industry needs and budgets.

#### Impacts and Benchmarks

*Accurately portraying the current impact of ebooks. Setting future standards and benchmarks for sales and usage statistics. Creating a research agenda and specifying needed studies to inform future action.*

3. Convene library and industry leaders to develop and publish a study of ebook usage that connects with existing research efforts.
4. Educate libraries, publishers, distributors and authors about the impact of ebooks distributed via libraries.
5. Develop core training on data and data analysis for library workers.



## Accessibility

*Ensuring that ebooks and ebook platforms meet accessibility guidelines for people who are blind or visually impaired or for people with intellectual disabilities.*

6. Promote awareness of and compliance with EPUB Accessibility standards.
7. Perform accessibility testing on major consumer and library eBook platforms and apps.
8. Develop model licensing language that creates appropriate focus on accessibility that improves adoption of the Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT).
9. Develop training for librarians on accessibility, accessible features of computers and mobile devices, accessible content and accessibility features of ebook platforms and apps.

## Curation

*Giving libraries greater ability to curate materials and help patrons discover them (through easier acquisition, flexible displays, improved “browsing” and “filtering” functions).*

10. Support the development of standards that drive the interoperability of ebook systems for easier library curation and end-user discovery. Evaluate existing standards and identify gaps where new standards should be created.
11. Develop talking points on the importance of standards that can be used for marketplace advocacy, negotiation, development and fundraising.
12. Research the ebook supply chain and where libraries can most effectively exercise curation. Make recommendations that are applicable across library types and scalable to all sizes of libraries.
13. Support the development of standards that will drive the interoperability of ebook systems to improve end-user discovery and use.
14. Evaluate gaps in metadata that hinder curation and discovery and make recommendations for improvement.
15. Support the development and expansion of SimplyE.
16. Advocate for increased interoperability by proprietary eBook platforms with SimplyE.

## Content “Deserts”

*Obtaining desired but unavailable or difficult to find content (e.g. backlist, non-English language, out of print).*

17. Study user demand for ebooks in the content desert.
18. Develop a coordinated approach to expand access to this content along with guideposts for similar initiatives to keep the momentum.
19. Ensure that content made available is discoverable via SimplyE to maximize access.
20. Add OpenLibrary content to SimplyE.

The full report outlines the following for each of the themes in greater detail:



- Problems, challenges and opportunities
- Priorities
- Organizational partners
- Opportunities to get involved

## A Call to Action for ALA

The summit conveners respectfully call upon ASGCLA and ALA to support the National Agenda for Ebooks that emerged from this summit. The summit conveners will meet with the ASGCLA Board at the 2019 ALA Midwinter Conference to discuss next steps.

## For More Information

To learn more about the summit or to get involved in efforts related to this national agenda, contact the conveners of summit:

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