

Director's Report

Sechelt Public Library

February 28, 2021 – March 26, 2021

By Leianne Emery

Introduction

March 2021 has again been an incredibly busy month with reporting, budgets, presentations, meetings, grant reports, grant applications, spring break programming, cataloguing and processing (especially with added STEAM kits), new book ordering, weeding, designing marketing materials, patron interactions and community partnerships. We had our busiest day at the library in a very long time last week at 445 patrons in 1 day.

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1. One Year Anniversary

This March 18th represents the one-year anniversary of shutting our doors to the public. Although our staff were still coming to work and answering all calls and emails, the public was not physically coming in the doors. We have come through a lot in the last year! We celebrated two birthdays, 5 x 1-year work anniversaries and a 1- year covid closure anniversary with cake and pizza!

2. Staff

We are very pleased to welcome back from maternity leave Samantha (Sam) Iverson. Sam was our Technology Coordinator but is currently working in the Children's Programming position. A huge weeding is now underway in the children's area and we are looking at different options for our weeded books' next home!

3. Meetings and Partnerships this Month

SCRD Budget Round 2
District of Sechelt, Committee of the Whole
District of Sechelt Public Participation Meeting
Elder College
Interlink AAG
ABCPLD Meetings (2)
Seniors Planning Table Technology Subgroup
Literacy Coalition
Betty Baxter – Seniors planning table – Poverty Reduction Project

4. Funding Payments

We have received to date Q1 payments (unadjusted for new budget) from the SCRD and DOS. The DRAFT Funding and Service Agreement addresses the percentages and timing of each of the Funders obligations. We will have to follow up with SIGD when the Funding Agreement is signed and official.

	Beginning of Q1	Beginning of Q2	Beginning of Q3	Beginning of Q4
DOS	30%	30%	20%	20%
SCRD	25%	25%	25%	25%
SIGD	50% January 5	50% May 31		

5. 5-Year Funding Agreement and Budget Negotiations

Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD):

November 5, 2020 Pre-Budget

- "old" budget at 4% 4% 4% 4%
- FS to Sep 2020
- Written Report

February 1, 2021 Budget Round 1

- Written report
- Revised 5-year detailed budget requesting 2.5%, 4%, 3%, 3%, 4%
- Budget Summary
- Speech I gave

February 25 2021 Corporate and Administrative Services Committee (observing guest only)

- 3 main items were discussed
 - o Funding and Service Agreement was received (funding partners and myself worked on this over the summer and into the fall)
 - o 5 Year Agreement – as opposed to 1 year
 - o % increase request
 - o Result: no consensus among the councilors therefore, it resulted in recommendation to bring forward the draft funding and service agreement report be referred to the 2021 Round 2 Budget meetings on March 4 and 5, 2021. AND FURTHER THAT the Sechelt Public Library be invited to attend as a delegation at the 2021 Round 2 Budget meetings on March 4 and 5, 2021, providing a service plan in relation to funding increases over the term of a 5-year agreement.

March 4, 2021

- Presented a 15 minute oral presentation at Budget Round 2 followed by a Q+A

March 11, 2021

- Round 2 budget recommendations put forward (in amended agenda)

Recommendation No. 1 *Sechelt Public Library Funding and Service Agreement*

The Corporate and Administrative Services Committee recommended that the report titled Sechelt Public Library Draft Funding and Service Agreement be received for information;

AND THAT the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) funding partners (Area A, B and D) approve the Agreement as presented;

AND THAT the 2021-2025 Financial Plan include the following:

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Area A-[function 643]	\$46,553	\$48,394	\$49,825	\$51,298	\$52,815
Area B-[function 645]	146,553	152,350	156,854	161,491	166,265
Area D [function 646]	91,958	95,596	98,422	101,332	104,328

AND THAT the delegated SCRD signatories be authorized to sign the Sechelt Public Library Funding and Service Agreement;

AND FURTHER THAT the Agreement be forwarded to the District of Sechelt, the Sechelt Indian Government District and the Sechelt Public library Board for feedback and approval.

Director McMahon opposed.

District of Sechelt (DOS):

March 10, 2021 - Council of the Whole Meeting

- Gave verbal presentation and budget summary to go along with our budget request

March 15, 2021

- Gave another verbal presentation at the Public Presentation Meetings

March 17, 2021 regular Meeting of Council

- David Douglas, Director of Financial Services, reported that the SIGD and SCRD has both approved the funding agreement and recommended that it be approved by the DOS. It was approved by all.

Sechelt Indian Government District (SIGD)

- Chief Paul was on the SCRD meeting Feb 25 and there was some discussion about the SIGD population % contribution to the library which will be discussed at a later date this year
- The SIGD approved the 5-year funding Agreement

Signing:

*******All three main funders have now voted in favor and the 5 year agreement and budget request.** Official signing of the 5 Year Funding Agreement by all 4 parties has commenced.

6. Provincial Grant Report and Statistics

The Province of BC gives libraries (municipal, public, regional) grant monies each year. In 2020 we received \$77,183. This has not changed in years. The reporting and submissions we are required to do are onerous but necessary. This year, prior to May 15th, we will have to submit the following:

- Technology Grant Report (submitted)
- Provincial Funding Grant Report (submitted)
- SOFI (Statement of Financial Information) being developed now
- Typical Week (taken in November and aiming for completion of input in April)
- Provincial Stats (aiming for April completion)

7. Grant Applications

MJ and I applied for two grants in March and are in the process of a third.

We were advised on March 25th that we received a grant from United Way Healthy Aging for an Itech package of 5 tablets and technical support with Geek Squad. This was made possible by a donor to the United Way for seniors' technology. Talia and I will be attending the course in April for our requirements and obligations.

8. STEAM kits

STEAM = Science, technology, engineering, art and math. \$3600 of our technology grant is going towards the first 24 STEAM kits. So far, 24 kits have been fully developed, 11 have been fully catalogued (and all have “holds” placed) and 8 to date have been processed and are actually ready for pickup. Processing of these kits takes enormous amounts of staff time! list!

9. Spring Break Programs

Our Technology Coordinator and Adult Programmer teamed up to pull together an incredible Spring Break Program for children. Attendance was high – especially for ZOOM. We also had two different “Storywalks” from the Library to Rockwood. These are very popular! The most popular one was the Scavenger Hunt – at almost 65 people in attendance – that we know of. Most families loved the outdoor programming we did and hope to see more in future. Which the team is already planning of course...



Storywalk

March 15th-26th

Participate in two outdoor storywalks. A new walk will be posted on March 15th and March 22nd.



Crafting

Monday, March 15th.

2:00-3:00.

Ruth Moore leads several exciting crafting projects. Pick up a supplies package from the Sechelt Library with everything you need to make the crafts.
Age 4-7.



Storytime

Tuesday, March 16th & 23rd.

10:30-11:00.

Join Talia and Sheepy for immersive, engaging, and hilarious storytime!
Age 0-7.



Treasure Hunt

Wednesday, March 17th.

10:00-5:00.

Enjoy an outdoor self-led Treasure Hunt. Get ready to solve clues and win prizes!
All ages.



Magic Show

Thursday, March 18th.

2:00-3:00.

Lippy the magician will demonstrate several magic tricks, and will even show you how to do a few yourself!
Ages 6-12.



Yoga

Friday, March 19th. 10:30-

11:00 ages 2-5.

11:30-12:00 ages 6-10.

Yogi Julie Morgan will be teaching two yoga classes! This is a great way to get moving!
Age 2-10.



SPCA Pet Pals

Monday, March 22nd.

1:00-2:00.

Learn about your favourite animals, the SPCA, and your pets! Perfect for animal lovers.
Age 8-12.



Pound Fitness

Wednesday, March 24th.

1:00-2:00.

POUND, taught by MJ Leitner, is a drumming inspired workout, perfect to get out some excess energy.
Age 7-12.



Drag Queen Storytime

Thursday, March 25th.

2:00-3:00.

Join us for an entertaining storytime with Drag Queen Conni Smudge.
Age 3-8.



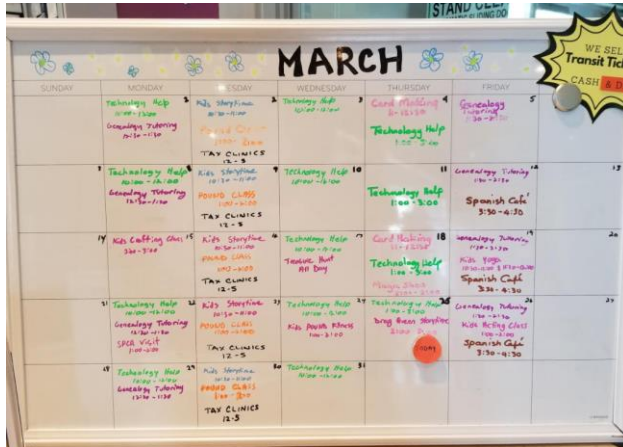
Acting Class

Friday, March 26th.

1:00-2:00

Join Driftwood Theatre teachers Elizabeth and Gabe for fun Drama activities including concentration games, improvisation exercises, character work, and story building!
(No experience necessary)
Age 9-14

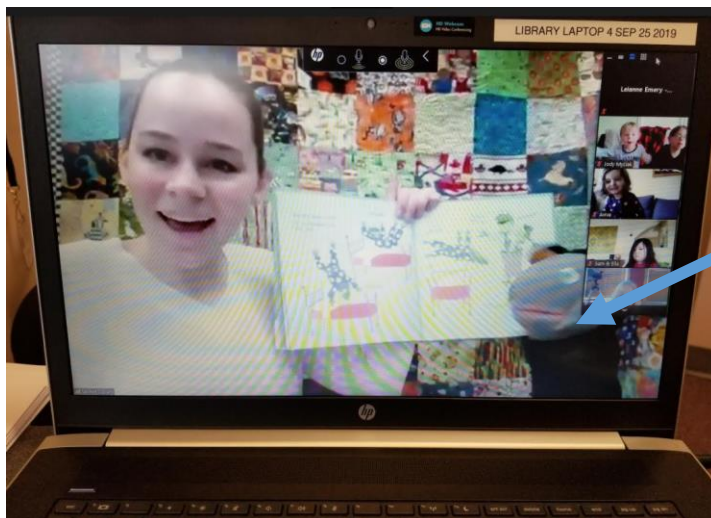
10. Programming for March



- Card Making Classes Adults



- Card Making Classes Children
- Storytime with Talia and Sheepy





Sheepy from Storytime's fan mail!

- Pound Exercise Classes – adult
- Pound Exercise Class – kids
- Children's Outdoor Storywalks
- Drag Queen Storytime



- Magic Show
- Treasure Hunt



Treasure Hunt participants (above) and Clues with secondary clues under the flip-up

- Acting
- Genealogy Tutoring
- Technology Assistance One on One
- SPCA
- Tax Services
- Spanish café
- Financial Talks
- Book Club
- Chair Yoga

11. Volunteer Income Tax Clinics

Sechelt Library has been hosting tax clinics with the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program with our tax prep volunteer Terry who prepares returns for eligible patrons. Due to such high demand we have had to add extra days and the appointments keep coming. Terry and her clients, our patrons, love being in the room of requirement for this. We will have assisted 100's at the completion by the time we are finished.

12. 100 Year Birthday Celebration

We were very honored to have been part of a 100-year birthday celebration for the subject of a new book in our library entitled, "Our Vita". The book's subject, Vita Simpson, a local, turned 100 years old on March 19th, the day of our launch. The author, award winning journalist Arthur Lightbourn, pictured next to me, is also a local. Both Vita's family and Arthur Lightbourn and his daughter Laurel were in for a visit on March 19th. We had purchased flowers to be brought by Arthur to Vita. The Coast reporter was also interested in this story so hopefully they will include something.





Community

~ CENTURY

100 years of Vita: Denmark-born Sechart resident celebrates a century of life

KEILI BARTLETT
Staff Writer

The night of her 97th birthday, Vita Simpson dreamt of writing her guest list for her 100th birthday party. That dream has now come true, as her family and friends gathered virtually on March 19 to celebrate her century of life.

Vita means "life" in Latin, and Simpson has certainly lived up to her name. In her 10 decades, she's been a model, a single mother, part of the Denmark Underground, a dedicated wife, and a beloved great great grandmother.

Last year, award-winning journalist Arthur Lightbourn wrote the book *Our Vita* about the "old Viking," as she likes to call herself. In honour of Simpson's birthday, the Sechart Public Library curated a display featuring the book, which is available to borrow. Lightbourn, in his 80s himself, attended.

Simpson's daughter Helen Angus said the book was the culmination of a desperate effort on her part to get her mother's story down on the page, even though Simpson was a reluctant subject.

Vita Xenia (later changed to Zenia) Jensen was born in 1921 on the island of Fye in Denmark. Her first love was

Copenhagen, where she eventually struck out on her own. By 17 years old, she became a certified beautician, and then a model.

When Germany invaded Denmark on April 9, 1940, Vita joined the Danish Underground within hours. She converted her apartment into a safe house for those fleeing the Gestapo.

She became pregnant during her first engagement, and decided to raise the child on her own when her fiancé was not ready to become a parent. Several years later, love walked in. Her daughter describes her parents meeting as love at first sight.

Vita first set eyes on New Zealander Major Derek Simpson when she was persuaded by friends to join them for dinner. After a long-distance romance, the two wed. Shortly after, her husband, an ophthalmologist, accepted a job in Vancouver and the family of three arrived in Canada with \$100 cash. Together the couple raised four children.

With Vita's eye for decorating, the Simpsons bought and sold more than 28 homes. Then, they spent four years living on the sea in their boat – despite Vita's seasickness.

"She got seasick as soon as they left the dock, she was turning green," her daughter Angus said.

"But she loves the captain, and she would follow him anywhere. She would never deny the love of her life, his dream... And he didn't deny her."

Derek would give Vita whatever she wanted on board. "Persian carpets, crystal glasses – you name it," said Angus.

Most of those luxuries didn't make it through the couple's first crossing of the Atlantic. By the time they arrived in Portugal, their sails were in shreds, their motor wasn't working. The freezer had met its end, and the turkey inside needed to be cooked.

So Vita made a feast for the 40 people at the dock who helped them tie up. Even at the end of an ocean-crossing journey, Simpson was ever the hostess.

In 1982, the Simpsons returned to life on land. After 45 years of marriage, Derek died in 1993. Vita moved to Sechart in 2004 where her daughter lives. The rest of her



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAGEELE QUESTA

Vita Simpson pictured in her Sechart garden.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HELEN ANGUS
Vita around 16 years old.

living children followed suit, and still live close by.

It's been a memorable life, if not without its hardship. Simpson has survived cancer, three strokes, three heart attacks and a seven-month stint in hospital when she battled seven viruses. At the same time, Angus said. After a stroke last year, her doctor said she had a week to live. When Simpson was 97, she told her biographer that she couldn't believe she's still alive.

Simpson has always been determined not to lose her mobility, her daughter said, and once the pandemic started, began her campaign to trick Angus into outings. Angus cares for her mother every day, and the mother-daughter duo have their daily ritual of a glass of white port.

"It just brings some joy and some depth to her life. There's not a lot when you're 100, you know, but sitting and being able to have something that tastes so good and

put a smile on your face," Angus said. "She can have whatever she wants. She's 100 years old. And she's not going anywhere, she's not driving, so what the heck?"

If there is a secret to Simpson's long life, her daughter said it's how she never held on to the negative and her passion for everything she did. It may have also come down to characteristic determination.

"She didn't struggle into 100, she blossomed into it. And it's been a joy to watch. It's a joy to be her daughter. It's a joy to be part of this journey," Angus said.

As Simpson got ready to welcome her guests on March 19, she made sure her makeup was just right. She waited for her party to begin with a few socially-distanced in-person guests and many more virtually, including her 105-year-old best friend.

After all the celebrations were said and done, Angus said her mother called her 100th birthday "the best day of her life."

13. CELA and NELS

In case you did not know....

CELA - Centre for Equitable Library Access

NNELS - National Network for Equitable Library Service

The problem:

The federal government's 2020 Fall Economic Statement included an announcement of cuts to funding for accessible book production for those with print disabilities. The current annual funding of \$4 million (\$3 million annually to CELA and \$1 million annually to NNELS) will be reduced by \$1 million annually beginning in 2021 before ending entirely in 2024-2025. The decision to terminate funding for NNELS and CELA was made without consultation or advance warning. These cuts will have devastating results for those who have print disabilities. There will be an immediate impact on CELA's ability to produce new books for its collection and distribute materials including audio CDs and physical braille to its users. For NNELS, a loss of funding will mean a dramatic reduction in the scope and depth of accessible publishing work being done, the reduction of staff, many of whom have print disabilities, and a significant drop in the production of accessible content.

The tackle:

A MAJOR campaign against these federal funding cuts ensued. We participated.

The reward – for now:

CELA and NNELS' Joint Response to Minister Qualtrough's Announcement

March 16, 2021

Federal News Release: [Government of Canada increases funding for alternate format materials for persons with print disabilities](#)

Today Minister Qualtrough released a statement restoring \$1 million in funding for accessible reading materials for the upcoming budget year 2021-2022, meaning there will not be cuts to funding for CELA and NNELS, or their services, for the upcoming year.

We thank Minister Qualtrough for her assistance and are grateful for the one year reprieve this funding offers for our users who rely on accessible reading materials. In our conversation with Minister Qualtrough yesterday we agreed that there needs to be an ongoing discussion with all stakeholders, including the publishing industry, the federal government and others, to develop a longer term strategy and sustainable Federal funding solution for accessible book production and distribution. We are also seeking her assurance to address the government's planned funding cuts for future years while we work together to develop a strategy to meet the needs of the 1 in 10 people with print disabilities.

CELA, NNELS and our colleagues in the publishing industry all believe the idea of born accessible publishing is a laudable goal, and we are working together to increase the amount of material that can be produced this way. Kate Edwards, Executive Director of the Association of Canadian Publishers says “CELA and NNELS are valued partners to the Canadian publishing industry as we implement strategies to ensure that our books are born accessible. We know that continued progress in this area depends on developing sustainable models that include partners in all parts of that ecosystem, and look forward to continuing to work with government, NNELS and CELA in support of this goal.”

We are grateful for the broad support our advocacy campaign received, and for all the efforts made to raise awareness with MPs on this issue. These efforts have assured the government has understood the importance of this issue and as a result they have offered this interim solution. We commit to keeping you apprised of the progress of our conversations with the government as we strive for longer term funding.

Laurie Davidson,
Executive Director, Centre for Equitable Library Access

Kevin Millsip,
Executive Director, BC Libraries Cooperative

14. Elder College Partnership

Both Gibsons Library and Sechelt Library are working with Elder College to support their course offerings (one each per semester) . The concept is that the library can support the course instructor and participants with reading material ideas.

SUNSHINE COAST
ElderCollege

**Our Libraries, Our New Education Partners
and a Peer Helper Project**

SECHelt LIBRARY
Space to think

Gibsons & District Public Library
Stories To Tell

We are delighted to announce a new working relationship with two other community learning organizations. Those of you registered in “The History of Rome” or “Astrogeomorphology” will receive Reading Lists for these courses, prepared in cooperation with the Sechelt and Gibsons Library staff. In some cases the staff have sought out material from other provincial Libraries to support these courses. This is a new initiative that seems to make sense, and we are undertaking this as a pilot project. If it’s supported we will look at other courses, as well as other ways we can work cooperatively to enhance our collective learning opportunities. We have created a page on our website under the Menu **EVENTS**, with links to both Libraries.


Here is the link: [Libraries](#)


Janette did all the research to support the instructor for the “astrogeomorphology” course and our team put together a very professional looking document for the Sechelt Library.

Sunshine Coast Elder College, Spring 2021
Astrogeomorphology
 Presenter: Ray Kostaschuk

Select Resources at the Sechelt Library


Books & Magazines

 Chown, Marcus. [Solar system: a visual exploration of the planets, moons, and other heavenly bodies that orbit our sun](#). Black Dog, 2011. 520 CHOW
 An entertaining, in-depth exploration of the planets, dwarf planets, the sun, moons, asteroids and comets. Includes hundreds of images from NASA and graphic experts (Planetary Visions).

 Cohen, Andrew, with professor Brian Cox. [The Planets](#). William Collins, 2019. 523.2 COHE
 An accessible introduction to the planets of our solar system, their composition, how they were formed, and how they are explored by humans. Accompanied by recent stunning NASA photography. A companion book to the critically acclaimed BBC series.

 Hadfield, Chris, and John McQuarrie. [Earth spirit of place](#). Magic Light, 2013. 525 HADF
 Experience Chris Hadfield's photographs taken from the International Space Station. Geologic and topographic features imaged include: glaciers, deltas, urban areas, coral reefs, as well as dynamic events such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions.


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Sunshine Coast Elder College, Spring 2021
Astrogeomorphology
 Presenter: Ray Kostaschuk

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 Experience Chris Hadfield's photographs taken from the International Space Station. Geologic and topographic features imaged include: glaciers, deltas, urban areas, coral reefs, as well as dynamic events such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions.


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Documentaries on DVD

 [One strange rock](#). Producers, Darren Aronofsky & Jane Root. National Geographic, 2018. DVD 550 ONE
 Experience an epic tour-de-force around the globe and into space, revealing the extraordinary forces that make our planet function and allow life to thrive.
<https://catalogue.libraries.coop/eg/staff/cat/catalog/record/121543719>


 [Pluto Beyond](#). Directed by Terri Randall. A NOVA production. PBS, 2019. DVD 523.4922 PLUT
 The New Horizons spacecraft reveals the never-before-seen alien landscape of Pluto in 2015 -- a world of mountains made of ice mixed with plains of frozen-solid methane and nitrogen. Find out more about NASA's remarkable new discoveries of this dwarf planet ... and beyond.

 [Welcome to Mars](#). Written, produced and directed by Mark Davis: a NOVA production, 2005. DVD 523.43 WELC
 Documents the most significant events of the Mars rovers Spirit and Opportunity.

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Online Courses


 [Khan Academy: Cosmology and Astronomy](#)
 Sign up for a free account and participate in a 4-part series of instructional videos. Contents include: Scale of the universe; Stars, black holes and galaxies; Earth geological and climatic history; Life on earth and in universe.

Visit <https://sechelt.bc.libraries.coop/>, or call Sechelt Library at (604) 885-3260 ext. 2 to discover other recommended resources.

Can't find what you want in our catalogue? We can borrow items from other libraries. Ask a staff member for details.

Sechelt Library Hours:
 Sun: Closed | Mon: 10-5 | Tues: 10-5 | Wed: 10-6 | Thurs: 10-5 | Fri: 10-5 | Sat: 10-3

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 info@sechelt.bclibrary.ca



15. Seniors Planning Table Partnership

We are participants in the Seniors Planning Table Technology Subgroup and as such contributed to the technology peer helper project.

Peer Helper Project

Many of you have successfully navigated the technology transition to online learning, and are able to stay connected both intellectually and socially. Unfortunately, there are others in our community for whom, because of COVID, isolation has become significantly worse.

The Sunshine Coast Seniors Planning Table is exploring a Peer Helper Project that would pair experienced Zoomers with those needing assistance in getting online. If you are interested in this project or would like further information please contact **Jack Pope** jackpope2019@gmail.com

This brochure is now being handed out at vaccination centres and other places.

Do you need help with technology?

The SPT Technology Group can help you feel confident with your digital device through one-on-one mentoring, online training and peer support.

Sechelt Public Library
(604) 885-3260
Gibsons and District Public Library
(604) 886-2130
Sunshine Coast Resource Centre
(604) 212-1441

The Seniors Planning Table Technology Group is a partnership between:

SECHELT LIBRARY **SUNSHINE COAST ElderCollege** **TELUS** the future is friendly™
Gibsons & District Public Library **Sunshine Coast Resource Centre** **DEER CROSSING THE ART FARM**

16. Amazon Power House not helping libraries

March 10, 2021

Amazon withholds its ebooks from libraries because it prefers you pay it instead

[33](#)

Amazon's publishing arm has refused to sell digital books to libraries

By [Nick Statt@nickstatt](mailto:Nick.Statt@nickstatt) Mar 10, 2021, 1:39pm EST

December 20, 2020

Amazon working on new system to license ebooks to public libraries

December 20, 2020 By Sovan Mandal [1 Comment](#)

Amazon has generally been reluctant to allow libraries to have access to its ebooks, preferring instead to make those available via its own Kindle ebook store. Public advocacy groups and libraries however have taken strong exception to this and are demanding easy availability of the Amazon titles via libraries to allow the public to have easy access to the information contained therein.

Fortunately for book lovers, Amazon indicated it is deliberating licensing its digital titles to libraries though any concrete development on this is yet to be seen on the ground. [The Hill](#) however did confirm the Digital Public Library of America is discussing with Amazon Publishing on this though no one knows for sure how soon we can see the content being available in public libraries.