



## **HarperCollins eBook Policy**

NJLA members are deeply concerned about the policy announced by HarperCollins to restrict their eBooks to licenses which will expire after 26 circulations. We understand that publishers are concerned, as HarperCollins notes, “...with the need to protect our authors and ensure a presence in public libraries and the communities they serve for years to come.” We think this policy will have the opposite result from those expressed intentions.

The attempt by HarperCollins to apply a licensing scheme for eBooks based on its perception of how long the average physical book can be circulated before requiring replacement will result in the loss of access to eBooks by New Jersey residents. Digital content is not produced, distributed, managed, maintained or used in the same manner as its print counterpart. A licensing scheme such as this one is untenable, building as it does on the already outdated one copy one user print model.

If HarperCollins believes its existing licensing model will not work in the current digital environment and if they are serious about wanting to work with libraries to ensure their digital content reaches the vast number of American library users, we urge them to talk seriously with us and their distributors about the issues regarding licensing digital content. Such discussions will help to determine a model that will address the needs of all involved.

Implementation of this new policy will negatively impact our ability to purchase any digital content from HarperCollins and we strongly urge them to suspend this policy and begin a true dialog with the library market.

**Approved by the NJLA Executive Board, March 15, 2011**