



Director's Report – Tricia Perry
Westwood Public Library
1 March 2020

Staffing - Adult Services / Reference Librarian Position

We have received over 70 applications for the position of Adult Services / Reference Librarian, and I am so happy to share with you that an offer has been extended and accepted by Erin McGrady. Erin will be joining our staff in the next few weeks, and I hope you will all stop in to give her a warm welcome!

Budget:

The Finance Committee is in the process of reviewing the FY21 budget, and there are two public hearings scheduled for Monday March 2, and Monday March 23rd at 7 pm in the Library Community Room.

Islington Branch Library

Weekly progress and review meetings with architect (Mike McKay) , Owner's Project Manager and town staff continue. At this time, foundation work and work on Wentworth Hall are continuing. Bid documents have been posted for the General Contractor work, with filed sub-bids due in early March, and General Contractor bids due on March 19th.

Time Capsule Planning: Library staff have reached out to several local individuals and organizations in preparation for planning for a Time Capsule that will be installed as part of the Wentworth Hall renovation/relocation project.

Technology:

New Library Server: June Tulikangas and Rick Taplin are completing the final steps for the new server installation. Special thanks to both of these individuals for coordinating a successful install process!

Updated technology to enhance programming at the Library:

In addition to the FM listening system that is available for use in the Community Room, we have now added four additional listening devices that can be used by individuals to provide additional options to enhance users who may need additional hearing assistance at events or programs that are held in any library space. Working with Tish Healy (Selectmen's Office) and Melinda and Connor (Westwood Media Center) we have added 4 "personal amplifiers" that can be used in any space at the library. These are **Williams Sound PockeTalker personal amplifiers**—which is the same model that is currently in use in other town facilities. These allow the individual to amplify the sound directly via a small microphone that is part of the unit. There is a headset option or an individual ear piece that accompany the small amplifier. Features on this device include the following:

- Amplifies sound by up to 40dB
- Delivers clear, distinct sound to improve communication in noisy environments

- Adjustable volume and tone controls
- Includes 12 foot microphone extension cord for extended hearing
- Compatible with telecoil (t-coil) enabled devices with 3.5mm plug
- Operates on 2 AAA batteries (included)

Programming:

Planning for Summer Reading is underway!

Digital Content: Possible Boycott of Macmillan E-Books?

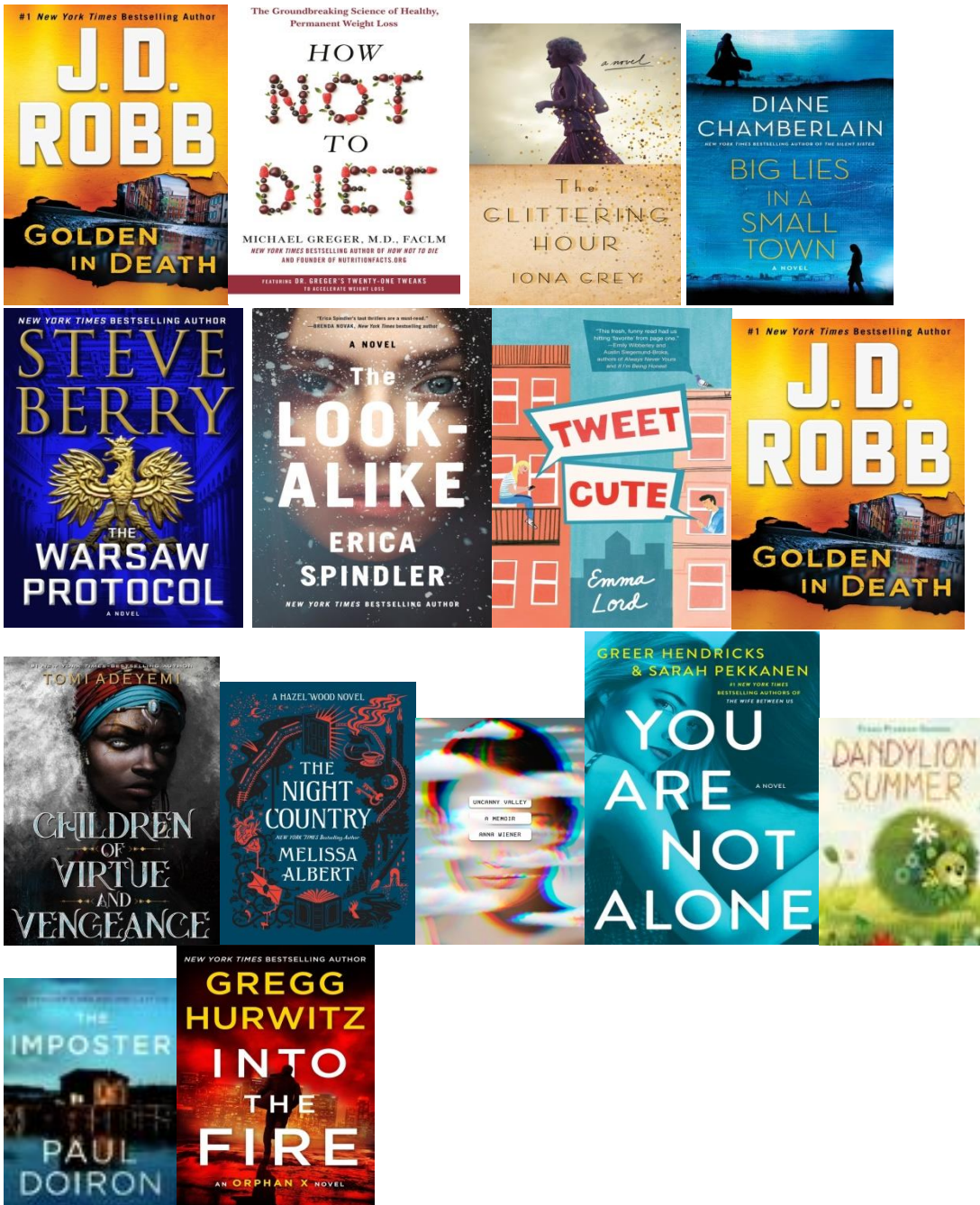
Over the past several months, there has been a lot of discussion and debate in the library world focused on the changes being implemented by publishers regarding the availability of digital content for library users. Digital content is provided by many publishers, and specific lending models have been designed for library usage. A common option is metered One Copy/One User, with a limit to the number of total downloads or length of time that a title can be accessed – ranging from 12 months or two years, or 26 to 52 checkouts. As you can imagine, given the large number of publishers, there are fairly complex arrangements in place; and the Big 5 (Hachette, HarperCollins, Macmillan, Penguin/Random House, and Simon & Schuster) drive the lending models as the primary providers in the marketplace.

And the landscape continues to evolve! On November 1, 2019 Macmillan Publishing, one of the nation’s largest book publishers, launched an e-book embargo that unfairly limits access to digital content for libraries and library patrons! Under this new model, libraries may purchase one single copy of an e-book when it is released; after which time the publisher will impose an 8-week embargo restricting any further purchases by a library or library system until the embargo period is concluded. This means that only one copy of a MacMillan ebook title will be available to all Minuteman patrons for the first 8 weeks after a title is published.

The American Library Association strongly objected to this new Macmillan library lending model, which has resulted in many librarians and libraries opting to boycott the purchase of Macmillan ebooks in response to this embargo.

Looking at the period from November 1’ 2019 to June 30, 2020 this embargo will affect 868 titles – some of which will be very popular, so the wait for these titles will be very long, if the Network has only one copy to share amongst all Minuteman library patrons!





The Library Trustees have engaged in a discussion of a possible boycott of MacMillan E-Book titles, in response to the limits that this publisher is placing on the purchase of ebook content by public libraries. At the present time, the Minuteman Library Consortium has not taken a formal stand on the issue, however several member libraries have individually opted into boycotting MacMillan Ebooks. Library staff will be circulating additional information to the public about the impacts that this will have.

Questions for our Patrons:

Would you want the Library (and the Network) to boycott all Macmillan ebooks until the embargo is lifted?

Would you be willing to read these titles in another format (audiobook/ print / large print?)

We would also want to get a look at the question of access as well; as our boycott would essentially make all of these Macmillan imprint titles unavailable as a e-book option (and if the Consortium voted to boycott, this would impact all 43 member libraries!

So, still looking at best way to gauge what our response can and should be – and how can public libraries, individually and as a group put pressure on the publisher in order to work towards a better way to manage econtent for library users?