

The Minnesota Library Association helps libraries accomplish together
what none can do alone.



MINNESOTA LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

Library eBooks: HF 3698

Current State of Library eBooks

How Libraries Acquire eBooks

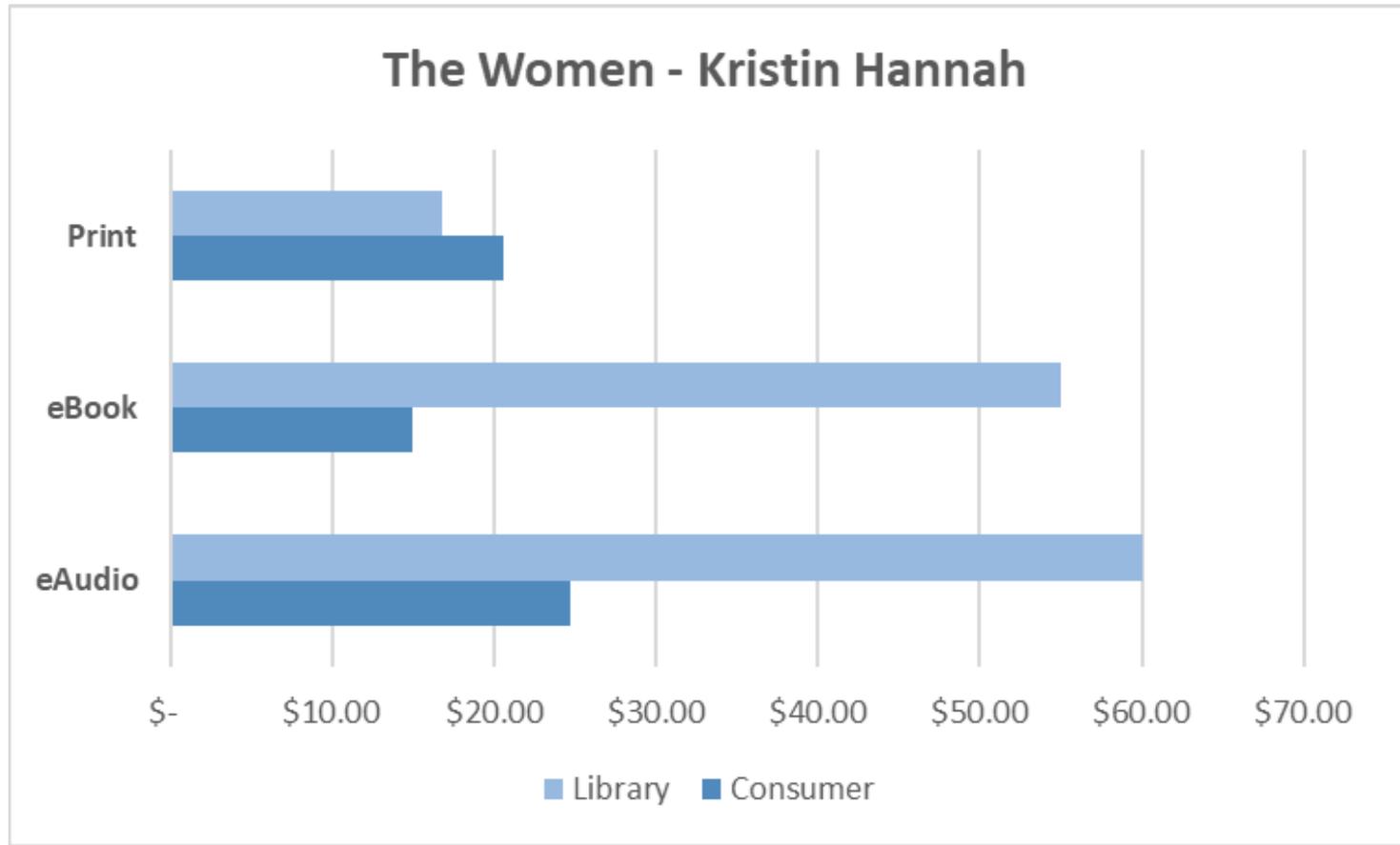
- Lease through vendors, not directly from publishers.
- Licensed, not owned

The High Cost and Restrictive Terms

- Libraries pay significantly more—often 4-5x retail pricing.
- Expire after two years or 26 checkouts, means titles have to re-lease

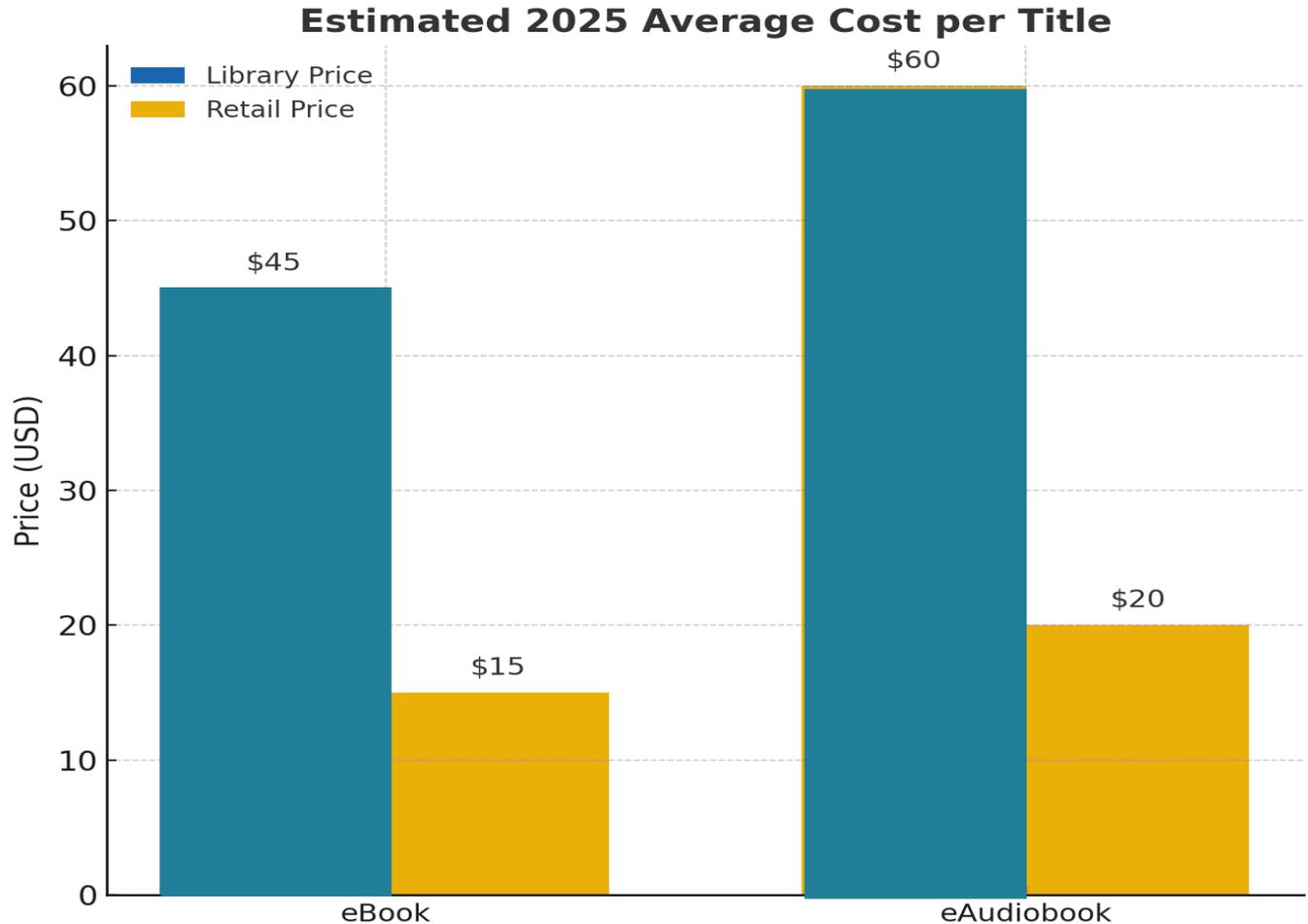


Library vs Retail



Sources: Amazon, OverDrive, Ingram 12.5.2025

Library vs Retail eContent Costs



Source: ReadersFirst 'Publisher Price Watch' (2025) | Library eAudio \approx 3 \times Retail

Current State of Library eBooks

- Cannot be loaned between libraries, unlike physical materials.
- Vendors require non-disclosure agreements (NDAs)



School Libraries

- School libraries often unable to purchase their own
- Only 54% of Minnesota schools have a Licensed Library Media Specialist (LMS) qualified to purchase.
- Median MN school library media center budget= \$5,000.



Why is this a problem?

Access

- High eBook prices and the inability to use interlibrary loan
- Many school libraries depend on public library collections

Accessibility

- Readers with visual or reading impairments,
- Students with IEPs or 504 Plans.

Taxpayer Dollars

- High prices and must repeatedly re-license the same titles, increases long-term costs
- Limits ability to build robust eBook collections.



Connecticut's Approach

- Passed contract-law protections
- Bars agreements that block lending, limit copies on release day, or restrict loan duration.
- Prohibits NDAs, privacy-violating terms, and unfair time-limited licenses without options like pay-per-use or perpetual access.
- 7 million population trigger



Legislative Solution

- HF 3698
- The bill aims to protect taxpayer dollars, restore local control, and ensure access to Minnesota's library collections.



Questions & Thank You

