

The Myth of Librarian Neutrality: Adobe Digital Editions & the Digital Rights 'Movement'

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What is DRM?

- Any system used by producers, publishers, and vendors to embed technological controls on what users can do with electronic files (ALA, 2012)
- Copyright for digitally encoded information (Godwin, 2006)





Adobe

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of <i>Plenty</i>, one of the most lauded cookbooks of 2011.</b><br><br>In <i
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born in Jerusalem in the same year--Tamimi on the Arab east side and Ottoleng
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Agenda

- 1) Free and Equal Access to Information
- 2) Fair Dealing
- 3) User Confidentiality

Need #1

**FREE AND EQUAL ACCESS TO
INFORMATION**



"It is the responsibility of libraries to guarantee and facilitate access to all expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity, including those which some elements of society may consider to be unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable"

**- Canadian Library Association / Association canadienne des bibliothèques
Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom (1985)**

Need #2

FAIR DEALING

What is Fair Dealing?

- An exception to copyright law, in which the copyright holder does not authorize certain uses of copyright material in advance
- Includes copying for educational purposes
- Ambiguous!

Need #3

USER CONFIDENTIALITY



“We protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted.”

- ALA Code of Ethics, 2008

In Review

- 1) It isn't accessible → Free and equal access to information
- 2) It isn't fair → Fair Dealing
- 3) It isn't safe → User Confidentiality



"People expect and deserve that their reading activities remain private, and libraries closely **guard** the confidentiality of library users' records... The unencrypted online transmission of library reader data is not only egregious, it sidesteps state laws around the country that protect the privacy of library reading records."

- Courtney Young, ALA President (October 13th, 2014)



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Privacy and Ebook Access through Adobe Digital Editions

Posted on [October 7, 2014](#) by [Cecile](#)

It has [recently come to our attention](#) that a software vulnerability exists within Adobe Digital Editions, the software that is used by the Ryerson Library to access many of the library's ebooks. Adobe Digital Editions has been logging data on the books used with this application and other ebooks that have already been downloaded on the devices of library users. This information is being uploaded in plain text to Adobe servers, and is being sent without any encryption, meaning that book logging data is potentially open to interception by anyone with a moderate level of technical skill. Note that this vulnerability seems to be limited to Digital Editions 4, the most recent version of the software. As far as can be detected, Digital Editions 2 and 3 are unaffected. Ryerson is investigating and we will keep you updated on how this may affect you.

The Ryerson Library provides access to thousands of ebooks. All can be read online; however, due to DRM (digital rights management) restrictions, if a user chooses to download a book to a device for offline reading, they must use Adobe Digital Editions. This is a condition of purchase that has been unavoidable for all libraries providing ebook content.

If you are concerned about your right to privacy, we recommend that you uninstall Adobe Digital Editions 4 from all of your devices immediately. You can still read ebook content online, install [Adobe Digital Editions 3](#), or you can follow up with your [liaison librarian](#) about options for print alternatives.

 OverDrive Libraries and 2 others follow



Chad Haefele @HiddenPeanuts · Oct 7

Adobe Digital Editions sends tons of data on your reading to Adobe. Very many downloadable library ebooks use ADE. the-digital-reader.com/2014/10/06/ado...

RETWEETS

2



4:21 PM - 7 Oct 2014 · Details



Reply to @HiddenPeanuts

 CAPAL (Canada) follows



Karim B Boughida @kboughida · Oct 11

Adobe Digital Editions privacy concerns ocul.on.ca/node/3325 via Ontario Council of U. Libraries

RETWEET

1



12:17 PM - 11 Oct 2014 · Details



Reply to @kboughida

Adobe's Response

“...All information collected from the user is collected for purposes such as license validation and to facilitate the implementation of different licensing models by publishers and distributors...

...Adobe Digital Editions is designed to collect this information solely for eBooks opened in Adobe Digital Editions or stored in the Adobe Digital Editions library directory, and not for any other eBook on the user's computer...

User privacy is very important to Adobe, and all data collection in Adobe Digital Editions is in line with the end user license agreement and the Adobe Privacy Policy”

Information is not neutral. And neither are librarians!

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Questions?

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