

**Dude,  
Where's My eBook?!**

**...eBooks at  
Edmonton Public Library**



**Edmonton  
Public Library**

# eBooks at EPL Overview



- eBooks in Public Libraries
- History of eBooks at EPL
- eBook Collection Decisions at EPL
- Status of eBooks at EPL

# eBooks in Public Libraries

“...the long and winding road”

- **Format fallout**
  - plethora of platforms
- **Economics**
  - not so novel
- **Collection development assumptions**
  - not just for tech-heads
- **Role of ILS**
  - we need seamless simplicity
- **Content**
  - ...is still King!

# History of eBooks at EPL

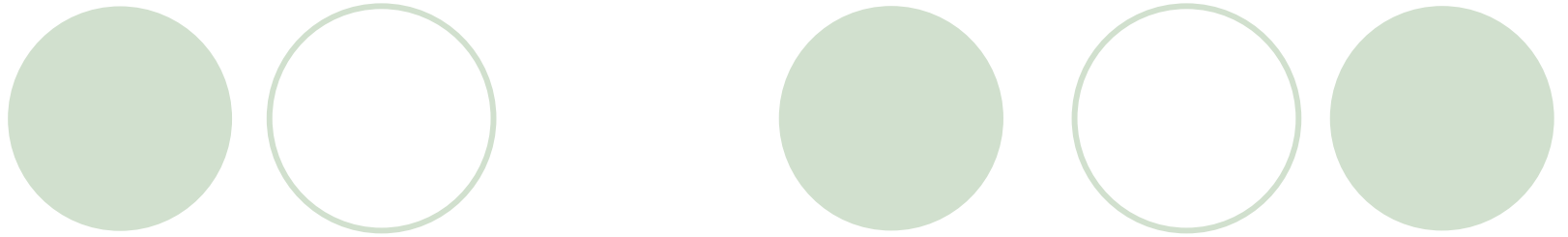
- EPL participated in the APLEN-funded eBook pilot in late 2000
- the pilot was *hardware based*
- used the Rocket eBook reader for content delivery
- reader had to be loaned to customer
- general conclusion: dedicated hardware model is not appropriate for public libraries
- *“let’s wait and see what other models hit the market”*
- fast forward to Fall, 2004...

# eBook Collection Decisions at EPL

- NetLibrary & Overdrive were frontrunners for EPL
- NetLibrary was chosen for our first foray into eBooks
- can search within the contents of a book
- NetLibrary will be offering audio books *soon*
- flexible due dates, solid statistical reporting, ability for multiple customers to *browse* books
- approx. 30% of titles can be downloaded to *any* device that can display PDFs

# Status of eBooks at EPL

- no MARC records in catalogue – yet!  
Catalogue stage could be months away
- Initial batch of 309 titles:
  - Rosetta Collection titles
    - Modern classics
  - IT Collection titles
    - eg/ *For Dummies* series, software, languages
  - selected Penguin titles
    - current high demand
- free public domain titles = 3000+ classics



**Thank you ...  
Questions?**

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