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To: Library Board of Trustees
 From: Greg Benoit and Adrienne Furness
 Date: April 8, 2011
 Re: Proposal for eBook Project

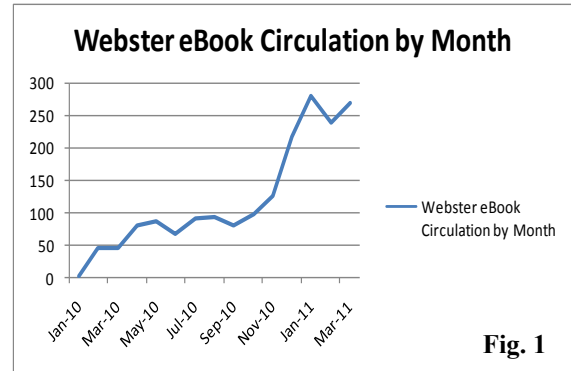


Fig. 1

Over the last six months, the library has seen the circulation of ebooks through MCLS's OverDrive service triple (see Fig. 1). This is in line with national trends. Many local and national news outlets covered the surge in ebook usage after Christmas this year and Amazon reports that since October 2010, ebooks have regularly outsold paperbacks each month. Webster has been a leader in Monroe County in terms of ebook usage and expertise. Our staff has worked to learn about this new technology, and we have shared this knowledge with our patrons through classes, brochures, and standard reference

transactions. Other libraries in MCLS have come to regard our staff as the foremost authorities on ebooks and OverDrive. Correspondingly, our employees have been regularly invited to other libraries to conduct training programs for their staff members. Webster is far and away the largest user of ebooks in the OverDrive system (see Fig. 2).

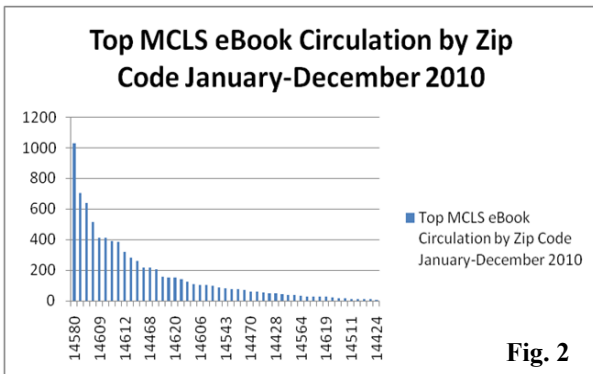


Fig. 2

We believe paper books will be around for a long time, but we also anticipate that ebook use will continue to grow exponentially. Our library staff's comfort with this new technology and our ability to offer ebooks and our expertise will be vital to the success of libraries as we move into the future. To that end, we propose investing in a project with two goals: to provide more ebooks to the public and to ensure that staff are thoroughly trained on how to use these new resources.

To ensure that a wide selection of ebooks are available to our patrons, we would like to use \$11,000 in 2011 to purchase ebooks for the OverDrive system. The current OverDrive collection is focused on bestsellers. We would divide this collection money between the various departments (adult, teen, and children's) with the goal of creating a more comprehensive and diverse collection—filling gaps in series, ensuring access to classics, making school summer reading titles available, and adding depth to the holdings. We would also like to use \$2040 to purchase 6 Nook ereaders to preload with ebooks and circulate to the public. This will give patrons who don't currently have ereaders an opportunity to use the technology. It is also an interesting experiment for us, as one Nook can hold up to 1500 items. We are envisioning creating Nooks with a

selections centered around themes. For example, we might have a Nook loaded with cozy mysteries and another loaded with all the books from this year's New York Times Best Books of the Year. The Greece Public Library recently began circulating Nooks, and as of April 8th, 2011 they have over 80 people on the waiting list to use them. We anticipate a similar level of interest here in Webster.

The second part of our project has to do with staff training. We would like to use \$550 to purchase an iPad 2 for staff use. In 2010, Apple sold more iPads than all brands of ereaders combined. The iPad represents the future of ebooks and computers in general. Tablet computers and smartphones are becoming the ebook reader of choice for an increasing number of people, and we need to make sure our staff feels comfortable working with them and the OverDrive apps that run on them. We expect over the next 18 months that the iPad will become the most popular device used to read our library's ebooks. Since the iPad has WiFi capability, we will be able to use it for other training and staff functions as well—to access the library catalogs in the stacks, for instance, or to learn about other apps we can use for our reference work. Having the iPad will give us the opportunity to provide training as well as give staff the ability to practice their new skills.

We welcome your questions.

Budget for eBook Project

Item	Price
Funds to Bulid OverDrive eBook Selection (to be divided among departments)	\$11,000.00
6 Nook eReaders @ \$150.00 each	\$900.00
6 Cases for Nooks @ \$40 each	\$240.00
60 eBooks to Load on Nooks (10/device @ approximately \$15.00 each)	\$900.00
iPad plus case	\$550.00
TOTAL	\$13,590.00