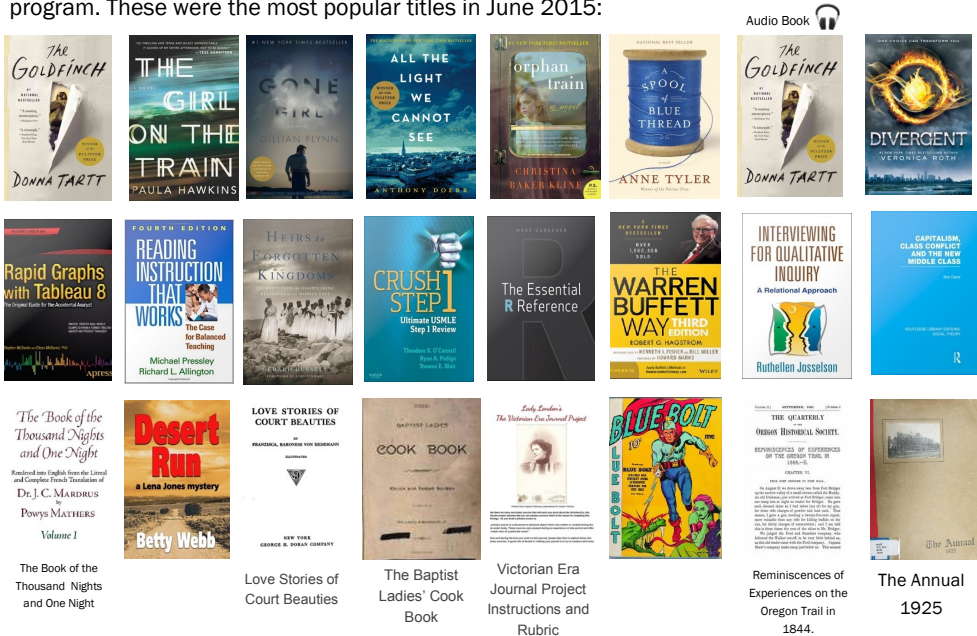


THE eBook CONNECTION

JULY / AUGUST 2015

A Taste of eBooks

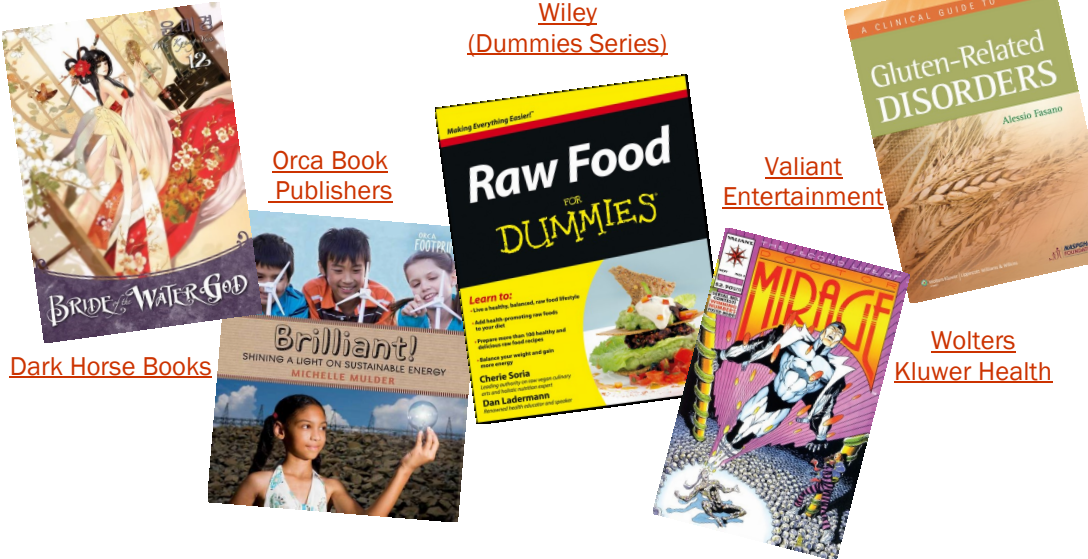
There are currently 8,021 Axis 360, 31,481 BiblioBoard and 132,486 EBL titles in the program. These were the most popular titles in June 2015:



News from MLS

New BiblioBoard content available

On June 22, BiblioLabs flipped the switch to change over to the content that Content Selection Committee has chosen for the coming year. This includes some exciting new offerings like a collection from the Dummies series as well as comic book presses Dark Horse and Valiant. Descriptions and links to the modules are [here](#).



Success Story

When Fenway Libraries Online network was approached to participate in the Commonwealth eBook Collections, I was skeptical about what we would gain from the collection. FLO was already involved in an Electronic Book Library (EBL) short-term loan (STL) pilot program. However, the short-term loan e-book milieu was a moving target, with publishers increasing STL charges and unavailable front lists. The projected cost for a ten-member network appeared unsustainable. When FLO decided to join the MLS CEC, we were still running the two collections on separate platforms, which presented its own challenges.

I was wary that the CEC would serve our needs until the user statistics began to come in and we evaluated titles used, authors, publishers, etc. We recognized support of our curriculum and value for money in the project. An added benefit was the variety of usage data available, including titles used, browse time, length of time spent reading and number of pages read, so that we can study usage behavior as well as content.

As academic librarians, we are concerned about defining “holdings” for our accrediting agencies so I confirmed that in the accrediting process access, effective processes, and measurable learning outcomes are now overshadowing the number of physical items held by an institution. Keeping detailed usage statistics is essential, but those stats may now be STLs and browsing reports, rather than volumes in the stacks. With the move to mobile devices, bulking up the building is less functional and large e-book collections are more cost-efficient.

I’m a recent convert, given Emmanuel’s growing use of the MLS EBL collection. The Baker & Taylor component has provided value as leisure reading for our patrons, as well. Finally, librarians from our FLO network and our Executive Director, have become actively involved in creating a profile for the EBL (academic) piece of the CEC. I would liken our experience to an open-source community—those who have a vested interest are able to get involved in the design.

Susan von Daum Tholl
Emmanuel College

Role-Playing Teens Learn About Victorian History and Class



A tall, uniformed butler at the entrance to the Avon (MA) Middle/High School Library, where I work, reads a calling card on a silver tray and announces in a booming voice: "Lady Yrvanie!" The lady in question curtsies and extends her gloved hand to Lady London (played by myself, left) and an attending Lord. Is this Downton AbbeyCon? No, it's a library-based world history collaborative project that uses 19th-century artifacts to teach 20th-century investigative skills to freshmen. Read the full article [here](#).

Digital ComiCon?

How Does Library Comicon Work?

MLS is exploring the possibilities of Digital ComiCon! We have formed a task force to brainstorm ideas on how to integrate the digital comicbook collection with real world applications. With BiblioBoard's leading indie comic and graphic novel publishers, libraries can produce their own Library ComiCon event focused on engagement with your local community. We want to work with you to help throw a vibrant event that attracts new patrons, increases community awareness of important library programs and keeps patrons engaged with your comic collections all year round. Stay tuned for more information about how to engage your local community.

More News from MLS

Axis 360 2.0

Baker & Taylor has been very busy in development in response to our needs. Axis 360 2.0 is nearly upon us!

In this new release, you will see a couple key changes that should move us quite a bit closer to the eBook experience that we have come to expect, including:

- One app
There will only be one app – Axis 360 – to both browse and read eBooks. AxisReader and Blio are no longer necessary.
- No more Adobe ID or Blio ID
Users will not have to know or create additional logins for Adobe or Blio in order to use eBooks.

The app is now available for library staff to test in preparation for the public release awaiting approval from the Apple Store. In addition, both MLS and Baker & Taylor are offering webinars and a canned video to go over the new app. See those webinars and other training opportunities on the CEC site under Training.

We are very excited with this progress, but please know that we're not finished yet. There's more work to do for us to give our patrons the eBook experiences that they deserve. We will continue to work closely with Baker & Taylor and our other vendor partners to make improvements.

Friendly Faces



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