



## Novanet Shared eBooks: a pilot project

### Staff FAQ

**1. What is the Novanet Shared eBooks pilot project?**

Novanet has worked with all of the post-secondary institutions in Nova Scotia to pool resources and purchase a collection of eBooks as one system.

**2. Why is Novanet doing this pilot?**

We identified a problem: library users were able to view eBooks on the catalogue but unless those eBooks were licensed by their institution, they were not able to access the eBooks, causing understandable frustration.

**3. Can the eBooks licensed as part of the pilot project be used for reserve course lists or uploaded onto course management systems (such as Blackboard or Moodle)?**

**No.** eBooks for reserve course lists and course management systems must be licensed at the institution level. **Staff must make faculty aware of this restriction.**

**4. Is Document Delivery (ILL) available for these eBooks?**

Document Delivery will not be available for the pilot project.

**5. How will I identify these shared eBooks in WorldCat?**

eBooks will appear as if they belong to your institution.

**6. How will I identify these shared eBooks in Novanet?**

In the OPAC, they will appear in a new sub-library called **Novanet** (code NOVA), in a collection called **Novanet Electronic resources** (code NNET) with an item status of **Ebooks 7 day loan** (code 65)

**At Acadia:** In the public catalogue (Webcat) the Novanet icon and the text: Novanet Ebooks, similar to gift/endowment icons, will appear in the full display. In Workflows staff can look for the 598 field = YBP.

**7. Is there a way for users to search for the pilot eBooks only?**

In the OPAC, limit your search to sub-library Novanet.

In WorldCat Local these Ebooks will be combined in the search results for your institution

**At Acadia:** in the public catalogue go to the Search Limits, then Collections and select Novanet Ebooks, in Workflows limit using to item Cat1 to YBP.

**8. We're already in a consortium, why can't we automatically access eBooks from the other institutions in the consortium?**

Each institution licenses eBooks from the vendor for their institution, making the eBooks exclusive to them. With this pilot project, we're able to license a collection of eBooks at a consortium level.

**9. What about the eBooks that were licensed to individual institutions before this project started, are those accessible to everyone now too?**

No, any eBooks licensed before the start of the pilot project will continue to belong solely to the institution that licensed them.

**10. Will each library continue to license eBooks, separate from this project, during the pilot?**

Yes, and those eBooks will only be available to the licensing institution.

**11. What is the budget for this project?**

\$100,000. All of the post-secondary institutions in Nova Scotia have contributed funds for this pilot project.

**12. eBooks are expensive. Won't \$100,000 run out quickly?**

Novanet will only purchase an eBook title after it has been checked out five times. The first five times that a title is accessed, the library user will get a **one-week short-term loan**, which is essentially like renting the eBook (as opposed to purchasing a perpetual license). The actual cost of these short-term loans varies by publisher, but in general, they are about 10-15% of the list price.

**13. How long will this pilot project last?**

A year, or when the money runs out.

**14. How did Novanet decide which eBooks to license with the \$100,000?**

Novanet used the “broader is better” philosophy for this pilot to create a fairly unrestricted profile. The vendor created a list of titles that matched Novanet’s profile using the following criteria:

- Exclude books prior to 2005
- Notify before purchase if price exceeds \$150 for single volume, \$250 for a set
- Exclude the typical subjects e.g. hymn books, instructors’ manuals, high school textbooks, etc.
- No juvenile, no popular, no reference
- Only English or French

As library users discover titles in the catalogue they want, they can access them through one-week short-term loans. Novanet will purchase a perpetual license only for those titles that are accessed more than five times.

**15. Which publishers are taking part in this project?**

Cambridge  
CABI Press  
McFarland  
Palgrave  
Sage, UK  
Emerald  
New York University  
World Bank  
Morgan and Claypool  
DeGruyter  
Edinburgh University  
Open University  
Rutgers University  
Liverpool University  
McGraw-Hill UK

This list continues to grow.

**16. Have any publishers refused to take part?**

Ashgate  
Brill  
Edward Elgar

**17. Can all titles in this collection be downloaded to PC and handheld?**

Yes. All titles can be downloaded using Adobe Digital Editions, which is a free download.

**18. Can a loan by one person be used on multiple devices that s/he may have i.e. download it on my PC and then decide to download it to my handheld?**

A loan can be downloaded by one person to two devices.

**19. Is there a way to tell how many eBooks have been triggered for purchase or short-term loan through this project?**

Periodic updates will be sent to everyone on the Novanet LISTSERV that detail short-term loans and purchases by each institution.

**20. Who is participating in this pilot project?**

Acadia University  
Atlantic School of Theology  
Cape Breton University  
Dalhousie University  
Mount Saint Vincent University  
Nova Scotia College of Art & Design University  
Nova Scotia Community College  
St. Francis Xavier University  
Saint Mary's University  
University of King's College  
Université Sainte-Anne

**21. Is there a limit to the number of simultaneous users to an eBook?**

There is no effective limit, but each use counts for one loan and each purchased ebook can only have 14 loans per year. Exceeding that number triggers another purchase of the ebook with another 14 loans per year.

**22. Who will manage the catalogue records of eBooks licensed through this pilot project?**

As the eBooks are licensed, the MARC records will be checked by cataloguing staff at Saint Mary's University.

**Acadia** will take care of the records in their catalogue.

**23. How long is the loan period?**

All titles are one week loans both for short-term loans and after purchase.

**24. Do you want feedback during the pilot?**

Absolutely. Part of the assessment of this pilot project is a staff survey. We also welcome feedback from your public. Formal surveys will be conducted after 6 months.

**25. Will titles in the collection change during the pilot?**

At 6 months, a committee will evaluate the pilot and make recommendations for any collection upgrades. Some titles may disappear if the publisher no longer offers a license.

**26. Access to the eBooks are being provided through an EBL server located in the United States. Is my personal information being stored on that server?**

No personal information is being collected or stored on any EBL or YBP server. Access to the collection is being controlled by each institution's existing proxy servers, just like any of your current electronic products. Your proxy server does generate a random string of characters when you login that EBL uses to "remember" you, but there is no connection to any of your personal identity information. This allows you to remain anonymous and EBL to know which items you have on loan.