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NC LIVE Partners with NC Publishers to Pilot Innovative eBook Funding & Licensing Model

RALEIGH, NC – NC LIVE, North Carolina’s statewide public and academic library consortium, is experimenting with new eBook purchasing and funding models that will give North Carolina library patrons unlimited access to more than 1,000 eBook titles from North Carolina-based publishers. This collection features a range of content, including novels by popular North Carolina authors, poetry, short stories, and non-fiction. The eBooks will be available for public use in July on the BiblioBoard platform.

The consortium partnered with eight local publishing houses to purchase the eBooks directly. Publishers include Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill (an imprint of Workman Books), Crossroad Press, Gryphon House, Ingalls Publishing Group, John F. Blair Publishing, McFarland, Press 53, and UNC Press. Unlike traditional eBook licenses, the agreements for the new eBook content feature always available, unlimited simultaneous user access during the life of the pilot, meaning patrons will not have to place a hold or wait for an eBook to become available. Additionally, the BiblioBoard platform allows users to view the eBooks in a web browser or download them to their tablet devices via an app.

To fund the pilot program, NC LIVE requested that libraries contribute at least \$250 per library

for the purchase of shared eBook content. The consortium paid for the cost of the eBook platform and some additional eBook content for the collection.

NC LIVE Executive Director Tim Rogers noted that North Carolina libraries have enthusiastically embraced the call, with more than 80 percent of NC LIVE members already pledging to help fund the project. "I think libraries are looking for new, cooperative ways to serve their patrons while dealing with extremely tight budgets." With this project, NC LIVE was able to acquire titles not previously available to library markets at lower prices than would be possible if the libraries purchased them independently. "Individually, a library spending \$250 could expect to purchase 5 -10 books. This project gives every library access to more than 1,200 eBooks. It is something we can all feel good about," he said.

UNC Press Director John Sherer echoed Rogers' sentiments and added, "From a publisher's perspective, this project was a unique opportunity for us to share our eBook content with North Carolinians in a way that we hadn't been able to in the past. We're very excited to be a part of this important new initiative."

The pilot program will run through December 2014, during which time NC LIVE will work with publishers, libraries, and BiblioLabs, provider of the BiblioBoard platform to assess the long-term sustainability and success of these models.

About NC LIVE

NC LIVE is a statewide library consortium that provides shared digital content and services to North Carolina's community colleges, public libraries, the UNC System, and NC Independent Colleges and Universities. Patrons of NC LIVE's 200 member libraries may access NC LIVE-provided eBooks,

magazines, newspapers, journals, streaming videos, and more online via library websites, and through www.nclive.org.

About BiblioBoard

BiblioBoard is the PatronsFirst mobile library. The folks behind BiblioBoard are a powerful team based in Charleston, SC. They aim to transform access to information by providing a world-class user experience that thrills library patrons and is profitable for publishers. BiblioBoard is moving library content delivery into the future in a sustainable way. BiblioLabs is also a proud member of the Charleston Digital Corridor. To learn more, visit www.biblioboard.com.

About UNC Press

Founded in 1922, the University of North Carolina Press is the oldest university press in the South and one of the oldest in the United States. To learn more, visit <http://uncpress.unc.edu>.

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