

# Online Resource Update

Joy Cadwallader, Aberystwyth University

Please send your submissions for the next issue to [jrc@aber.ac.uk](mailto:jrc@aber.ac.uk)

## Audible

In July Audible announced that they were introducing [Audible Captions](#), “to improve literacy rates and inspire students to pick up a book and read”. Readers will be able to read a few lines of machine-generated text as they listen to the Audible audiobook. Hachette, HarperCollins, Macmillan, Penguin Random House and Simon & Schuster have already [issued a copyright lawsuit](#).

## JSTOR Labs

JSTOR Labs have partnered with the Kunhardt Film Foundation to produce the [prototype Interview Archive](#) for searching and browsing “interviews...that contributed to the documentary *King in the Wilderness* about Martin Luther King's final years”, including unused content. I had a quick browse: contributors include key members of important civil rights movements and other friends and activists such as Harry Belafonte and Joan Baez. The search includes a rich topic menu and search results include links to related [JSTOR](#) articles and [ARTSTOR](#) images. Other features include a screening guide and six classroom lessons.

## National Library of Wales

A [National Broadcast Archive for Wales](#) is taking shape following the award of a £4,751,000 National Lottery grant to the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth. Two hundred and forty thousand hours of BBC radio and TV footage from Wales, in original and digitised formats, will be combined with the existing ITV Wales archive. 1, 500 BBC Wales archive clips of material will become freely available and hundreds of interactive events are planned “to promote digital learning for young people and health and wellbeing for older people...to help stimulate memories and stories for those with dementia.” Selections for digitisation will include “unique pieces...charting the development of the Welsh language and the productions of writers such as Dylan Thomas and Saunders Lewis, as well as recordings of early Welsh language broadcasts”. Additional project funding has been donated by the Welsh Government, the BBC and the Library.

## University of California/Elsevier

University of California professors are ratcheting up the pressure on Elsevier with a threat to withhold their services on Cell Press journal editorial boards until Elsevier re-opens negotiations towards a new contract with UC. UC is currently without direct access to new articles in ScienceDirect following a termination of subscriptions earlier this year. Signatories include such heavy hitters as Jennifer Doudna, co-inventor of the CRISPR-Cas9

technology to manipulate genes and Elizabeth Blackburn, co-recipient of the 2009 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. In this UC [press release](#) Jeffrey MacKie-Mason, the University Librarian (and co-chair of the team that negotiated with Elsevier) notes, “We have seen signs that there is change afoot in Elsevier since the beginning of the year.” He cited read-and-publish contracts signed with [Norway](#) and [Hungary](#) as “the type of agreement we have been seeking”. All eyes are on Elsevier for the next move.

## US public libraries/Macmillan et al

From November 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 in the US, Macmillan will limit public libraries to a single, discounted copy of all new Macmillan eBook titles for the first eight weeks after their publication following a data-gathering experiment on their Tor imprint, and “in response to our growing fears that library lending was cannibalizing sales” ([letter from John Sargent](#), MacMillan 25/07/2019 shared by *Publishers Weekly*). Public libraries will be able to buy one eBook in perpetuity at half price (which must be bought in the eight weeks after release), then additional copies after the embargo at full price which will expire after two years or fifty-two loans. Points made in the many opinion pieces about this in the information press include:

- Most borrowers will wait a long time for popular titles and lose out on the thrill of reading a new eBook on release ([Sari Feldman](#), *PW*)
- The model is “...designed to reward bestselling authors, while penalizing everyone else” ([Brian Kenney](#), *PW* and a public library director)
- Amazon’s self-publishing boom is changing eBook sales rather than libraries which, “build audiences for authors and books, promote reading and discovery” ([Steve Potash](#), OverDrive), as evidenced by the [Panorama project](#).

The American Libraries Association (ALA) has denounced the change and [distributed a template](#) for state and local library action.

My award for straight-talking advocacy goes to librarian Jessamyn West of Vermont whose [CNN opinion piece](#) on the matter begins, “Librarians to publishers: Please take our money. Publishers to librarians: Drop dead”. The ALA has also expressed concern over the introduction of metered reading models announced by [Hachette](#) and [Simon & Schuster](#). Many thanks to [InfoDocket](#) for these nods.