

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Surpasses One Million eBook and eAudioBook Checkouts in 2020

Top 50 public library system worldwide in total digital circulation

BUFFALO, N.Y. – January 12, 2021 – the [Buffalo & Erie County Public Library](http://www.BuffaloLib.org) announced today that it reached a record-breaking one million digital book checkouts in 2020. This major accomplishment illustrates the continued growth and importance of eBook and eAudioBook lending through the 37–member Library System most notably while during a major portion of the year under the global pandemic. Buffalo & Erie County Public Library is one of 102 public library systems worldwide that surpassed one million checkouts (complete list [here](#)).

The Library System has been providing readers 24/7 access to eBooks and eAudioBooks for several years through [OverDrive](#) and its award-winning [Libby reading app](#). Reader interest and usage has grown every year.

"While this has been a challenging year for all of us, we are so pleased our community has kept reading in the forefront of their interests," said Library Director Mary Jean Jakubowski. "And, we are so excited to have exceeded the one million mark of borrowed eBooks and eAudioBooks."

The highest-circulating title local Library readers borrowed through OverDrive in 2020 was *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. The top-circulating genre, romance, represents the most popular in a vast catalog that also includes mystery, thrillers and children/young adult.

The top 2 eBook titles borrowed through Buffalo & Erie County Public Library's digital collection, www.BuffaloLib.org in 2020:

1. *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens
2. *The Guardians* by John Grisham

The top 2 eAudioBook titles borrowed through Buffalo & Erie County Public Library's digital collection in 2020:

1. *Becoming* by Michelle Obama
2. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J. K. Rowling

Erie County readers of any age need a valid library card to access digital books from the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library's OverDrive-powered digital collection. Any device, including Apple^(R), Android^(TM), Chromebook^(TM) and Kindle^(R), a phone, laptop or PC can be used. Call the Library at 716-858-8900 or visit <https://buffalo.overdrive.com/> or download the Libby app to get started and borrow eBooks and eAudioBooks anytime, anywhere.

About the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System - For over 185 years, Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries have provided the community with book collections, services, programs, staff expertise and technology. The Library System welcomes millions of visitors each year at its 37 library branches located from one end of Erie County to the other. As vibrant public squares, libraries encourage lifelong learning and community dialogue. For many, the Library is the great equalizer, where anyone, regardless of their background or economic status, can utilize millions of resources to transform their life. Libraries offer free programming – currently in a virtual format on topics such as health & wellness, storytimes, genealogy and more.

About OverDrive - OverDrive strives to create "a world enlightened by reading." Serving a growing network of 65,000 libraries and schools in 84 countries, OverDrive delivers the industry's largest digital catalog of eBooks, audiobooks, magazines and other content through award-winning apps. The [Libby](#) reading app for libraries is one of *Popular Mechanics'* 20 Best Apps of the Decade, while the student reading app [Sora](#) is one of *TIME's* Best Inventions of 2019. Founded in 1986, OverDrive is based in Cleveland, Ohio USA and was named a Certified B Corp in 2017. www.overdrive.com. ###