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LIBRARY JOURNAL AND SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL EBOOK CONFERENCE DRAWS OVER 2,100 ATTENDEES

NEW YORK, New York, USA, 30 September 2010—How books are changing in the digital world and how these changes are reshaping public, academic, and school libraries was the pressing topic explored in a unique online event yesterday that brought together over 2,000 librarians, educators, technology experts, and thought leaders throughout the country.

In his opening remarks, Ian Singer, Publisher of *Library Journal*, *School Library Journal*, and *The Horn Book Magazine*, discussed the preliminary results of an extensive survey that explored ebook usage, trends and budgets. Singer reported that ebook circulation will be on the rise over the next year, with over 84 percent of public, 77 percent of academic, and 65 percent of school libraries anticipating an increase. In-depth data from this proprietary research will be available for purchase late in October in three reports covering ebooks in school, public, and academic libraries.

“This is our first online conference, and it’s the first digital event of this scale in our industry.” said Brian Kenney, *Library Journal* and *School Library Journal* Editorial Director. “In many ways it was a watershed event.”

The day-long conference featured well-known panelists who discussed topics ranging from the value of ebook reading devices for children to how electronic resources will impact the future of libraries, publishers, and readers. The virtual booths were well-attended, generating animated conversations between conference goers and vendors throughout the day. The attendees were completely engaged in the summit, downloading over 9,000 documents and e-mailing hundreds of questions that the speakers answered during the discussions.

Kenney continued: “This virtual summit demonstrated two things. One, librarians are excited to support their patrons with the digital content they want, in the formats they desire, and are eager to work with publishers and distributors to make this happen. Two, it’s clear that our profession and industry is ready for engaging and robust digital conferences—that we don’t always need to get on a plane and book a hotel room to learn from each other.”

ebooks: Libraries at the Tipping Point was sponsored at the Platinum level by OverDrive and at the Gold level by Baker & Taylor, Capstone Digital, EBSCO, Gale Cengage Learning, and Springer. Exhibitors included Ebrary, Lerner Digital, Mackin, Rosen Publishing, and Rourke Publishing.

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