

# **Publisher's denial of Digital Ownership** **VS** **Decentralization**

Mega Publishers v Internet Archive

**Brewster Kahle**  
Founder, Internet Archive



INTERNET AND NEW MEDIA LIBRARIES FREEDOM OF SPEECH

# Publishers Are Taking the Internet to Court

*In a lawsuit against the Internet Archive, the largest corporations in publishing want to change what it means to own a book.*

*By Maria Bustillos* 

SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

<https://www.thenation.com/article/society/publishers-are-taking-the-internet-to-court/>



HarperCollinsPublishers

**Owned by Rupert Murdoch**  
**\$8billion**

 **hachette**  
BOOK GROUP

**Lagardere SA**  
**\$2billion**



Penguin  
Random  
House

**Division of Bertelsmann**  
**\$20billion**

**WILEY**

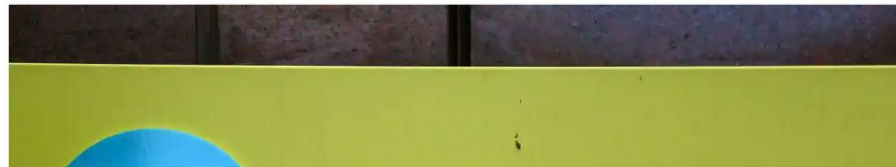
**Education tech**  
**\$2billion**

## Publishing

This article is more than 2 months old

# Pearson plans to sell its textbooks as NFTs

Educational publisher's move into non-fungible tokens is intended to claw back some of the income lost to secondhand sales



Lucy Knight

Tue 2 Aug 2022 16.37 BST



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# Some Authors Fight for Libraries



World ▾ Business ▾ Legal ▾ Markets ▾ More ▾



Copyright

Intellectual Property

Litigation

Data Privacy



3 minute read · September 29, 2022 10:29 AM PDT · Last Updated 5 hours ago



## Author coalition blasts publishers in legal fight with Internet Archive

(Reuters) - A group of more than 300 authors including Neil Gaiman and Naomi Klein issued a letter Thursday criticizing lawsuits from major publishing companies over the lending of digital books.

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/author-coalition-blasts-publishers-legal-fight-with-internet-archive-2022-09-29/>



**Digital Ownership at issue**

**Not Dead Yet**



**Universal Access to All Knowledge**



**790,000** Software Titles







**790,000** Software Titles  
**5,000,000** Moving Images



**580,000**

Software Titles

**5,000,000**

Moving Images

**14,000,000**

Audio Recordings



**790,000** Software Titles  
**5,000,000** Moving Images  
**14,000,000** Audio Recordings  
**2,200,000** Television News Programs



790,000 Software Titles  
5,000,000 Moving Images  
14,000,000 Audio Recordings  
2,200,000 Hours of Television  
6,000,000 eBooks



**790,000** Software Titles

**5,000,000** Moving Images

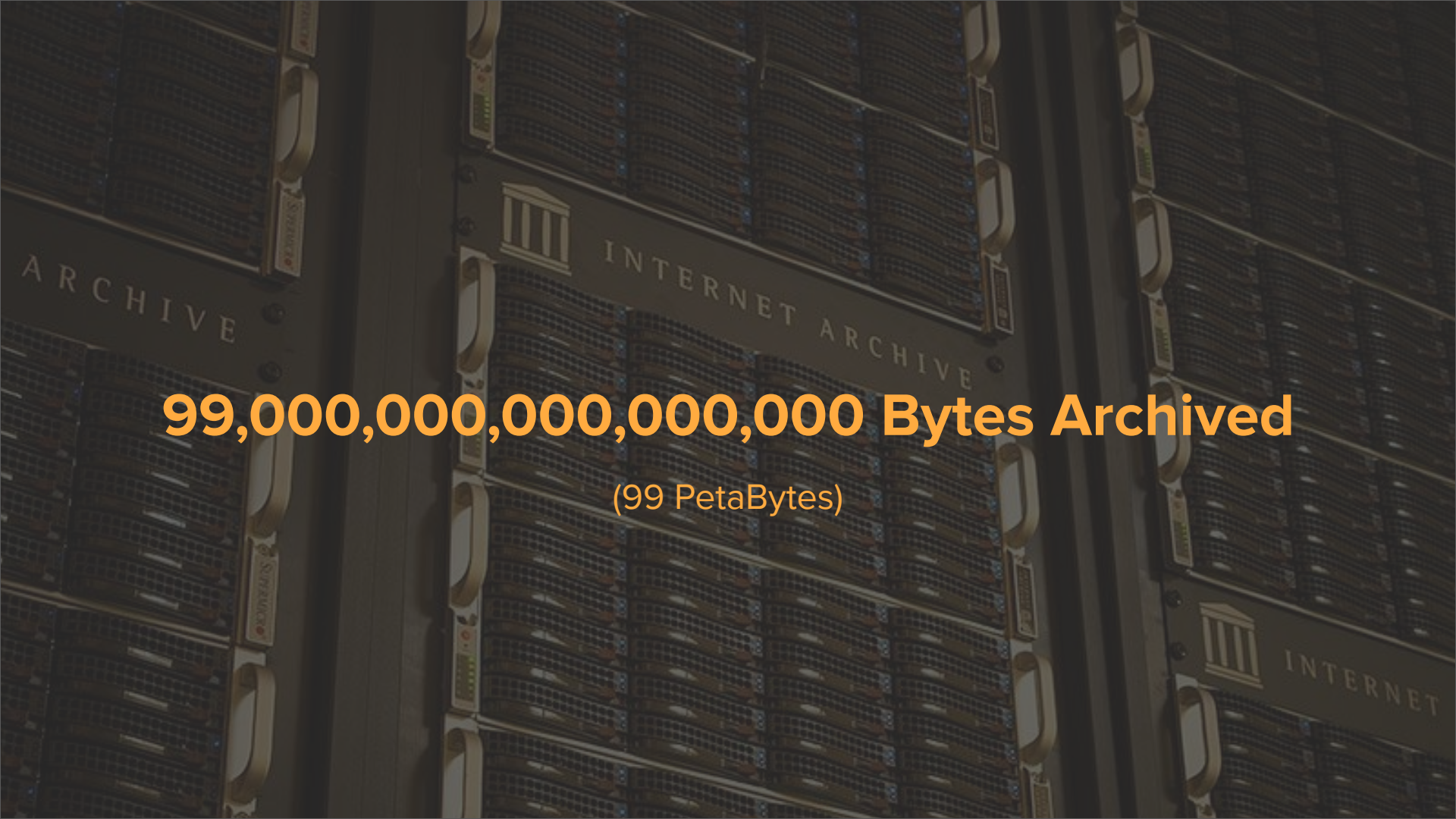
**14,000,000** Audio Recordings

**2,200,000** Hours of Television

**6,000,000** eBooks

**625,000,000,000** Web Pages





**99,000,000,000,000,000 Bytes Archived**

(99 PetaBytes)

# LOCKING THE WEB OPEN: A CALL FOR A DECENTRALIZED WEB



BREWSTER KAHLE, INTERNET ARCHIVE  
JUNE 2016, DECENTRALIZED WEB SUMMIT





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**what happens  
if corporations  
license rather  
than sell digital  
things?**

# The End of Ownership

PERSONAL PROPERTY IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY



Aaron Perzanowski and Jason Schultz

**what happens if corporations license  
rather than sell digital things?**

**they get to hold onto them, forever.**

**what happens if corporations license  
rather than sell digital things?**

**and they can decide what can be done with them, forever.**

**what happens if corporations license  
rather than sell digital things?**

**and they can take them away at any time.**

# **Consider Digital Books...**

**if you can not buy one, but only lease it, then...**





**...then every reading event will  
be permissioned**

**...every page is tracked by the publisher**



**change a book at any time,**

**and no libraries will own digital books,**

**Corporations and Governments can change history.**

**and no amount of digital currency or  
copyright law changes will stop it:**

**... the ‘miracle’ of license agreements**

**and there will be fewer and fewer publishers**



**Sounds bad, but...**  
**is it happening?**

**Yes—**

**unless we win our lawsuit**

# Disappearing books? Yes



The LIBRARY ASSOCIATION of IRELAND  
Cumann Leabharlann na hÉireann

0



## Irish Librarians condemn publisher Wiley's removal of hundreds of titles from ebook collections

📁 NEWS

News > Irish Librarians condemn publisher Wiley's removal of hundreds of titles from ebook collections

# Watching every page? Yes





# Book Banning? Yes

## Texas has banned more books than any other state, new report shows

Across the country, more books have been challenged and removed as religious and conservative groups target LGBTQ and race issues.

BY **BRIAN LOPEZ**

SEPT. 19, 2022

5 AM CENTRAL



COPY LINK

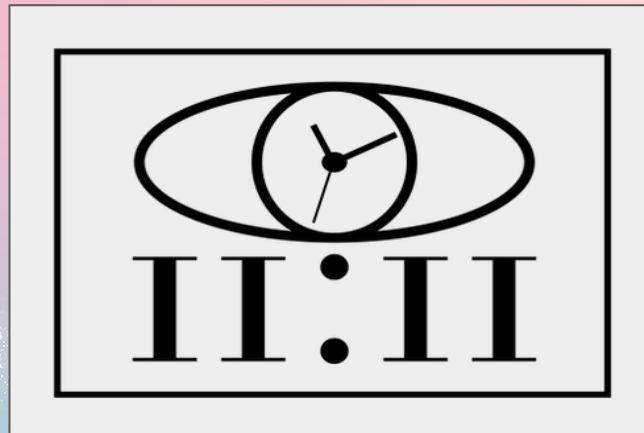




# What should we do?



# Support indie publishers who sell books



# Support AntiTrust; block mergers

Great Resignation

| Inflation

| Supply Chains

| Leadership

RETAIL · BOOK PUBLISHING

## Antitrust trial puts book publishing industry in the dock as Justice Department attempts to block merger of Penguin Random House, Simon & Schuster

BY HILLEL ITALIE AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

August 6, 2022 at 6:55 AM PDT

# And, Support the Internet Archive + Libraries that own collections



# Thank you!

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