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"The National Library of China stops purchasing local e-books and 330,000 people will not be able to borrow them", *GuangMingDaily* 

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## The National Library of China stops purchasing local e-books and 330,000 people will not be able to borrow them

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KUALA LUMPUR (April 25): The National Library of Malaysia will stop sourcing local e-books, leaving more than 330,000 Malaysians who use digital services without access to e-book lending services.

The National Library recently issued a notice to suppliers and publishers that it will no longer procure locally published e-books, automatically discontinuing the digital service.

In fact, in the past two years, the National Library has mainly stopped ordering local e-books, but still retains purchases of foreign e-books.

## Vendor publishers reflect dilemma

Providers of eBook Library Services (ELIB) for the National Library, over a hundred publishers and authors have raised the issue with the Ministry of Tourism that the National Library's decision will hurt the revenue of local digital content publishers and authors.

For some academic digital publishers, library purchases are their only source of income, since professional scholarly publications are not easily sold on the open market.

In early 2024, more than 330,000 active local readers will not be able to borrow e-books because their previously purchased e-book entitlements will remain available until 2024.

Yifa, 28, from Johor Bahru, is a user of the e-book library service system. She said that every year she borrows more than 20 books from the system and believes that the system is very useful.

"I really like using this service, I can borrow e-books from anywhere on my smartphone, and have e-books to read every month. I usually read a new book from the e-book library before deciding whether to buy a book."

She said she was saddened to learn that the service would be discontinued because she would lose resources to read.

"It's not just me, there are other students and teachers who regularly use this system for extra reading because it's so convenient."

She said she believed that the country could solve this problem as soon as possible, after all, reading should be regarded as a very important habit for the people of the country.