

BookNet Canada Year in Review



BOOKNET
CANADA



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Introduction

In the following pages, we look back on the year that was F2025 and share some of what we have in store for next year.

It's been a year of change and upheaval for the BookNet staff, but we have weathered it as a company and have continued to deliver the data, products, and services on which our stakeholders have come to rely. Our mission to support our stakeholders with the information and education needed to navigate and adapt to the changing needs of readers and the book market continues to be a priority for us as the industry prepares for potential upheaval with cross-border concerns coming to the forefront.

We have always believed that an efficient and informed book supply chain plays a pivotal role in ensuring that books reach the hands of eager readers. And we will continue our drive to optimize the supply chain through strategic partnerships, data collection and analysis, and the use of standards. We aim to create a more efficient, accessible, and sustainable system that empowers publishers, retailers, libraries, and readers.

BookNet staff collaborates with industry organizations to achieve an efficient and informed industry through representation on boards and committees. These include the boards of the Book and Periodical Council, the Green Book Alliance, and EDItEUR.

We remain grateful to our member organizations and partners: Association of Canadian Book Wholesalers, Association of Canadian Publishers, Canadian Publishers' Council, Canadian Urban Libraries Council, Canadian Independent Booksellers Association, Indigo Books & Music, and the Government of Canada for generously providing ongoing support to BookNet through the Canadian Book Fund. These partnerships help us to provide the services and support necessary to our stakeholders in the Canadian book industry.

Thank you,



Lauren Stewart
President and CEO

Guiding Principles

Short- to medium-term benefit

The projects selected by the BookNet Canada Board of Directors reflect an interest in providing a tangible return on investment within the short- to medium-term. Projects are designed to deliver benefits throughout their lifecycle with clearly defined performance objectives and deliverables.

Facilitation during technological change

Each project is designed to address a key area of technological change, ensuring that book industry participants remain adaptable and capable of meeting new demands in publishing, retailing, wholesaling, and distribution.

Benefit to all stakeholders

BookNet Canada focuses on project areas designed to provide consistent benefits to all participants in the Canadian industry, whether they are large corporations or small businesses.

Focus on Canadian cultural producers

Each project also has components designed to “level the playing field” for Canadian cultural producers, providing them with tools, best practices, education, and services.

Empower process improvement

BookNet Canada provides tools, services, and knowledge to help our stakeholders make process improvements related to supply chain and technological innovation within their organizations.

Collaboration and partnerships

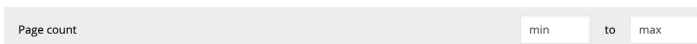
Whenever possible and appropriate, BookNet Canada looks to partner and collaborate with other associations and organizations to provide coordinated benefits to the Canadian book industry.

SALES DATA & LIBRARY DATA

SalesData & LibraryData

This year in SalesData & LibraryData, we were excited to add new features based on feedback we've heard regularly from users in both our customer satisfaction surveys and advisory group sessions.

In March 2024, we added Page Count data as a search filter across all our title-level reports, including the Bestseller, Multi-ISBN, Gap Analysis, Popular Books, Collection Gaps, and the Bestseller Circ reports. If users would like to find titles by their page count, they simply need to enter a minimum and/or maximum page count value in our new search text boxes.



For the same reports mentioned above, users can now add a Page Count column by opening the Customize Columns pop-up in the report results screen, and select the checkbox to add it.

Bibliographic

Add all

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subtitle
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contributors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CDN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ISBN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Series
<input type="checkbox"/> Series Vol. Number	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publisher
<input type="checkbox"/> Imprint	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Distributor
<input type="checkbox"/> Primary Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secondary Format
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pub. Date	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current List Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Original List Price	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subject
<input type="checkbox"/> BISAC Code	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Page Count
<input type="checkbox"/> Lower Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Upper Age
<input type="checkbox"/> Audience	<input type="checkbox"/> Dewey Number
<input type="checkbox"/> Languages	

Apply changes

Cancel




“Thank you for adding page counts and age ranges to the metadata we can see in reports! It is really a game changer for running reports on kids books.”

– Ghislaine Sinclair,
Formac Publishing

Next, we made some changes to the sorting logic across all of our SalesData & LibraryData reports. While users have always been able to sort all report columns in either ascending or descending order, we noticed that the sorting rules weren't always consistent across all of our reports. For example, the Units Sold column would sort in descending order by default on the first click in one report, while in other reports the same column would sort in ascending order after the first click. In this case, we cleaned this up so that the Units Sold column sorts in descending order on the first click across all reports. We know that even tiny changes like this can make a huge difference in our users' daily workflows!

Finally, we added new features to our internal Admin tool, which allow the SalesData team to better support retailers that are reporting their data to us through Shopify, Square, WooCommerce, or Lightspeed POS.

Previously when encountering a new retailer with one of these POS types, we would need someone from our developer team to configure the relevant data elements necessary to set up the API connection. This reliance on developer time could lead to delays in setting up new retailers and also took up developer time needed for other projects, such as adding new features into SalesData requested by our own users. With the new improvements, all members of the SalesData team can now add those data points ourselves, without developer intervention, and using our own interface.

In addition, if ever we had issues with an API connection, the SalesData team was unable to assess them without a developer who would have to investigate the last time there was a successful API connection through the back end. To address this, we've added new fields, which allow the team to confirm when we last successfully connected with the store's API and when we last received a sales file or an inventory file from them. After these updates, we can now:

- seamlessly onboard new retailers in one continuous workflow with reduced staff involvement;
- have better insight into issues with a store's API connection; and
- more easily identify any reporting gaps across all retailers using these POS types.

- Users ran over 290,636 reports in F2025 — over 1,100 per day!
- Subscribers received over 1,373 scheduled reports each week saving a combined 45 hours a week

 BIBLIOSHARE

“Biblioshare is such a valuable tool, and the training and resources provided are top notch.”

– Lynsey Robson,
Formac Lorimer Books

“BiblioShare ensures that our metadata makes it into the broader marketplace. It is a great service.”

– Customer Satisfaction
Survey 2024

BiblioShare

In F2025, the BiblioShare team focused on the industry’s more fulsome transition to ONIX 3.0. We did this through more robust customer support as well as integrations across all of our products. BiblioShare Webform was updated to handle 3.0 data and more advanced ONIX support. Our migration to using the new mandatory Shopify GraphQL API was seamless and we continued to increase our focus on the Shopify platform.

We investigated solutions to issues that arise from handling both 3.0 and 2.1 versions of ONIX data, and from the sheer volume of data. And we continued to support the industry through providing web services and developing useful solutions based on the data BiblioShare is processing and storing.

BiblioShare continues to grow. It’s always exciting to welcome new users to the marriage of metadata and the supply chain we call BiblioShare and in F2025 we added 59 accounts.

- 217,521 new records added
- 177,217 ISBNs have a Canadian contributor
- 3,989,074 cover images added
- 135,182,559 stakeholder requests came into our BiblioShare services



CATALIST

Catalist

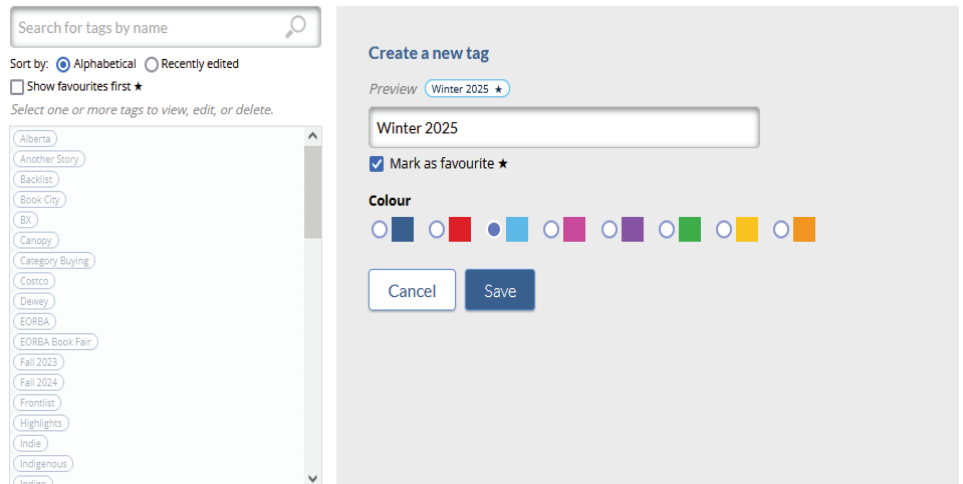
There were two major features released in F2025 for the Catalist project. The first was replacing the category system for labelling catalogues with a new tagging system. The new system makes it easier for people to quickly tag catalogues, and filter catalogue lists by tag labels. The tags can be edited and shared at the account level, and colour-coding options make it simple to highlight important labels.



“It has been exciting to see booksellers “take up” the use of Catalist over the past decade. It makes it a critical part of the bookselling infrastructure.”

— Cathie Crooks,
University of Alberta Press

Tag Manager



Search for tags by name

Sort by: Alphabetical Recently edited

Show favourites first ★

Select one or more tags to view, edit, or delete.

- Alberta
- Another Story
- Backlist
- Book City
- BX
- Canopy
- Category Buying
- Costco
- Dewey
- EORBA
- EORBA Book Fair
- Fall 2023
- Fall 2024
- Frontlist
- Highlights
- Indie
- Indigenous
- Indieco

Create a new tag

Preview Winter 2025 ★

Winter 2025

Mark as favourite ★

Colour

Cancel Save



CATALIST



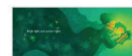
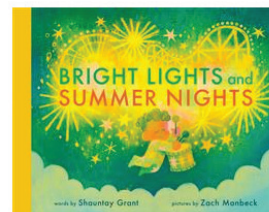
“Thanks for all the work to keep bringing new features to this service. It’s appreciated!”

– CataList user

“[The full book preview] functionality is incredibly helpful. We can’t wait to retire our link sharing process and reduce our printings next season.”

– Jamie Ferrin,
Penguin Random
House Canada

The second major feature was rolled out toward the end of the year; it allows publishers to share full children’s PDF files with library and retailer accounts. This allows librarians and retail buyers to make more informed purchasing decisions and better assess the content for their collections and customers. The full book previews can only be viewed on CataList, and cannot be downloaded or moved to other platforms.



View the full book 

Other Formats	+
Sales Rights	+
Supply Detail	+
Catalogues	+

Other features and improvements to CataList this year:

- Upgraded the system’s server infrastructure which made noticeable improvements to processing time and search runtimes
- Added SalesData on-hand and on-order data for titles to their detail page
- Enabled market selection for retailers and libraries that have access to more than one SalesData market
- Added filter functionality to My Order page
- Expanded the multi-select functionality to the scrolling view of search results

The team is also focusing on creating updated training materials. Seven new video tutorials were created and released this year, with more expected in F2026.

- 8 product releases
- 85 new retailer accounts added
- 10 new school / library accounts added
- Over 420,000 searches run



LOANSTARS

Loan Stars

The Loan Stars program continues to use LibraryData on order numbers to find and showcase the most anticipated books published monthly, as ordered by libraries across Canada. The program publishes two lists per month: the top 10 adult titles each month and the second alternates between a juvenile top 10 and either a Canadian adult list or a Canadian juvenile top 10.

“I appreciate that [the Loan Stars lists] include the top Canadian picks!”

– Customer Satisfaction Survey 2024

“It’s great. I use the downloadable posters.”

– Customer Satisfaction Survey 2024



The January 2025 LOANSTARS Junior Canadian top picks!
 THE 10 MOST ANTICIPATED BOOKS AS ORDERED BY LIBRARIES ACROSS CANADA.
 Place your holds on one of these future favourites today.

- Dot the Ladybug: The Perfect Spot** by Kallie George, illus. by Stephanie Fizer Coleman. Readers.
- The Eidi Bag** by Shazia Afzal, illus. by Shiva Delsooz. Holidays & Celebrations.
- Breath of the Dragon** by Shannon Lee & Fonda Lee. Fantasy.
- I Am Connected** by Kung Jaadee, illus. by Carla Joseph. Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island.
- Raven's Ribbons** by Tasha Spillet, illus. by Daniel Ramirez. Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island.
- PAWS: Hazel Has Her Hands Full** by Nathan Fairbairn, illus. by Michele Assarasakorn. Comics & Graphic Novels.
- No Purchase Necessary** by Maria Marianayagam. Humorous Stories.
- Money for Adults** by Michelle Hung. Personal Finance.
- Kidnapped from Ukraine: Under Attack** by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch. Places.
- The Queen's Spade** by Sarah Raughley. African American & Black.

Loan Stars is powered by BNC LibraryData

- 12 Adult Top Picks lists and 6 Junior Top Picks lists
- 3 Canadian Adult Top Picks lists and 3 Canadian Junior Top Picks lists
- 234 books promoted in total, including 75 Canadian titles



Pubnet EDI

In F2025, BookNet added 19 new retailers and two new suppliers to the Pubnet EDI network. The team worked with select suppliers to enable D2C fulfillment / dropshipping for their downstream retail partners. And the platform underwent general system security and stability improvements, including error tracking and internal notifications for communication with external services, discontinued support for a number of deprecated encryption methods for FTP connections, and security updates to crucial core components.

New retailers:

- Magpie Books
- School House Teaching Supplies - Wholesale Division
- Overlooked Books Inc.
- Good Dog Books
- Tap Town Books
- Flying Books Inc.
- Librairie Anémones
- Bellflower Bookshop
- Classroom Ready Inc.
- Oui & Zhi Editions
- Found Books & Shop
- The Next Page
- Egghead Books
- Turn the Page Bookstore Inc.
- The Book Boudoir
- Perfect Match Bookshop
- Book Bar
- Raven's End Books: The Horror Bookshop
- Carleton University Campus Store

New suppliers:

- Iguttaq Distribution Inc.
- Independent Publishers Group

- 19 new retailers and 2 suppliers

 STANDARDS & CERTIFICATION

“I’ve found that the new BISAC codes let me narrow down my IndigenousSFF titles. Yakoke fehna hoke to Wylie and his team for this.”

– Anonymous

Standards & Certification

Change remained the everyday normal for the Standards team in F2025. There was substantial growth in the BISAC and Thema subject code systems with particular emphasis for both on “soft” niche or diversity subjects as well as more-concept-than-subject coding such as world literature. We’d be interested to have feedback on problems or success associated with that.

With the recent announcement that Amazon will be accepting ONIX Version 3 for digital products, Canadian publishers and major retailers are in a good position since that version is now fully dominant and it is virtually used by all. Holdouts dependent on ONIX 2.1 are largely organizations who both accept and deliver ONIX — distributors and services like BiblioShare. These organizations find the transition harder because their outbound services remain used by companies who have not been motivated to change and they accept data from medium and small US publishers who remain behind in the transition.

Accessibility metadata is the year’s good news story, we found that most Canadian publishers are capable of producing accessible digital products, Canadian retailers are willing to support and display accessibility metadata, and both are using a coherent set of fully developed and agreed on standards. There remains a lot of work to be done in putting those parts fully together in a working exchange before the upcoming accessibility act deadlines (late spring 2025 for Europe and April 2026 for the US).



STANDARDS & CERTIFICATION



Standards & Certification

Over the past year it has become clear that business has a new concern: Due diligence metadata. Safety regulations have always required an element of this, as do accessibility and content warnings, but the European Union Deforestation Regulations (EUDR) require businesses who sell products in Europe to maintain information that shows they have completed due diligence with regard to their use of forestry products and they must be able to provide this information to other players in the supply chain, who, in turn, have the same regulatory obligation of due diligence. Sustainability and carbon capture is another area where a business must receive and provide information. It's becoming clear that regulations, not just ones from Europe, are requiring businesses to maintain, provide statements on, and in some cases distribute metadata, that supports the due diligence they are engaged in. Embrace it — it's a positive thing done in support of a societally driven goal. Not meeting 2030 goals will have actual consequences on the ability to sustain a business so be sympathetic to this need.

A roundup of 2024-2025's standards news can be found [here](#).

Stay in touch and use [BookNet's eNews newsletter](#) to keep informed on all of the above.

- 6,243 reads of the 19 standards blog posts published in F2025 (122% increase over F2024)
- Five standards webinars offered in F2025



RESEARCH & EDUCATION



“Sometimes I reference BNC Research reports in grant applications which can be very helpful.”

– Customer Satisfaction Survey 2024

“The award winner report is so useful! Thanks for providing that for those of us grappling with award shortlists and how much to print.”

– Customer Satisfaction Survey 2024

Research

In F2025, BookNet released five public reports, five subscriber-only reports, and four custom reports. In addition to the long form reports, the team also wrote 39 public blog posts on research topics.

RESEARCH & EDUCATION

Turning Pages: Print Book Use in Canada 2023



BOOKNET
CANADA

The F2025 research reports included:

- [Canadian Book Market 2024](#)
- [Turning Pages: Print Book Use in Canada 2023](#)
- [Canadian Book Consumer Study 2023](#)
- [Canadian Leisure & Reading Study 2023](#)
- [The State of Publishing in Canada 2023](#)

The top three most popular research blog posts last year were:

- [Tracking banned books in Canada](#)
- [Bestselling books of 2023](#)
- [Bestselling books of 2024](#)

In F2025, we continued to improve the accessibility of our visual components, for example, the tables and graphs included in our reports. And we provided HTML versions of our research studies for the first time which in addition to providing accessibility benefits, also allows our content to be more discoverable.

- 74,701 research blog post reads
- 3,169 research report reads and downloads



RESEARCH & EDUCATION



Education

During F2025, the Tech Forum team hosted 14 non-BookNet-focused webinars. Over a thousand participants joined us live, with many more watching the presentation recordings and accessing related resources on our [website](#) post-event.

These sessions covered a wide range of topics, including accessibility for digital books, crowdfunding, sustainability for booksellers, Indigenous literary style, and so much more. To deepen the industry's understanding of AI technologies, BookNet invited industry leaders to share their experience exploring applications of AI in book production and bookselling. We invited Geoge Walkley, a publishing veteran and leading authority on AI applications, to lead a [webinar](#) focused on the opportunities and challenges that generative AI introduces, offering attendees actionable tips for staying ahead in a dynamic landscape while emphasizing ethical considerations. This session drew 239 registrants. In light of this webinar's success, we organized a [follow-up session](#) dedicated to answering audience questions.





RESEARCH & EDUCATION



Education

The past few months have been particularly active for European regulations, including the [EUDR](#), [EAA](#), and [GPSR](#). To address these developments, BookNet engaged EDItEUR's Chris Saynor and Graham Bell for webinars and partnered with the Book Industry Study Group (BISG), our US counterpart, to host [a session](#) on the soon-to-be-implemented EUDR. Over 300 book industry professionals registered, with 188 attending live.

We remain committed to making our events as accessible as possible — not only by providing live ASL interpretation and human-generated captions but also by ensuring our webinars are free, eliminating financial barriers for both new and experienced industry professionals as well as students. Most of our webinars are also made available on [our website](#), where we share video recordings, transcripts, slides, and any additional resources discussed during the presentations.

Beyond Tech Forum, BookNet continues to collaborate with other organizations and higher education institutions. Throughout the year our staff presented at Simon Fraser University, Humber College, Toronto Metropolitan University, Centennial College, and OCAD in addition to engaging with industry associations like the Book Industry Study Group, Books BC, Independent Book Publishers Association, Access Copyright, Canadian Independent Booksellers Association, Australian Publishers' Association, Publishers' Association of South Africa, and Association of Canadian Publishers.

“The presenters are generally very, very good, and the fact that these presentations exist, and are so accessible, is commendable. Tech Forum is a fabulous teaching and training resource.”

— Customer Satisfaction Survey 2024

- 1,033 people attended our live educational webinars
- 5,581 views of our content on YouTube



Board of Directors

The BookNet Canada Board of Directors comprises a cross-section of representatives from firms across the publishing supply chain and the industry's professional associations.

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Association of Canadian Wholesalers

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Indigo Books & Music Inc.

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Ella Minnow Children's Bookstore
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