

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MELSA libraries exceed 7 Million Ebook and EAudiobook Checkouts in 2021 *#1 public library consortium worldwide in total digital circulation*

St. Paul, Minnesota: February 21, 2022 – MELSA (Metropolitan Library Service Agency) is pleased to announce that its Twin Cities Metro eLibrary, a library shared by the eight Twin Cities metro public library systems (Anoka County, Carver County, Dakota County, Hennepin County, Ramsey County, St. Paul, Scott County, and Washington County) reached a record-breaking 7 million digital book checkouts in 2021. This milestone illustrates the continued growth and importance of library lending of ebooks and eaudiobooks, especially during the global pandemic.

MELSA, consisting of more than 100 library branches in the Twin Cities Metro, is in the top four worldwide (only Toronto Public Library, National Library Board Singapore, and Los Angeles Public Library checked out more digital titles in 2021) and is the top library consortium. Even more impressive, MELSA's eLibrary has been available for just over a year!

So a huge thank you to metro library users for embracing the eLibrary – available via the Libby app -- so wholeheartedly. A Washington County Library fan says, "I am enthralled with the Libby app. Use it to access books...so handy to have on my phone. Also download audiobooks so I have stories going while I drive. Be sure to check out all the magazines, too."

A Carver County parent shares, "My son recently got his own tablet and was very excited to get the Libby app after seeing me use it so often. He has been so ridiculously happy to have free reign to download books and audiobooks on his own. He has it going constantly!"

Here are the highest-circulating ebook titles and eaudio titles borrowed from the MELSA Twin Cities Metro eLibrary's vast catalog.

- The **top 5 ebook** titles borrowed through MELSA's digital collection in 2021
 - The Four Winds: A Novel by Kristin Hannah
 - The Midnight Library: A Novel by Matt Haig
 - Anxious People: A Novel by Fredrik Backman
 - American Dirt: A Novel by Jeanine Cummins
 - Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century by Jessica Bruder

- The **top 5 eaudio** titles borrowed through MELSA's digital collection in 2021
 - Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
 - A Promised Land by Barack Obama
 - Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know About the People We Don't Know by Malcolm Gladwell
 - Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson
 - Cold Mourning: Stonechild and Rouleau Mystery Series by Brenda Chapman

Readers in the Twin Cities just need a valid library card to access digital books from the MELSA Twin Cities eLibrary on the Libby app. Download the Libby app and get started borrowing ebooks, emagazines, and eaudiobooks anytime, anywhere.

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