

*Since 1844, Lowell's public library.*

**Victoria B. Woodley**  
*Director*

*Board of Trustees*  
**Eileen Donoghue**  
*City Manager*  
**President Ex-Officio**  
**Marianne Gries**  
*Chair*  
**Suzanne Frechette**  
**Alison Gervais**  
**Sara Marks**  
**Salmira Mitchell**  
**Anne Mulhern**  
**Nancy Pitkin**  
**Donna Richrds**

Date: May 9, 2018

To: E. Donoghue, City Manager, City Councilors

*END*

From: V. Woodley, Library Director

Re: Response to City Council motion 9.4: C. Cirillo – Req. City Mgr. provide the City Council with a Report on the potential installation of “Short Story Dispensers” at strategic locations

Information on dispensers from the vendor:

Short story dispensers are not limited to the library; it could have a large impact on the City. The City could partner with other organizations such as the LRTA to place some dispensers within the City and promote reading to all. Most “smart city” projects are focused on technology, and not enough on humans. We could strengthen this project in the future by encouraging writing as well. The vendor sent me a presentation he made for the City Council showing you the unit, but it is meant to be viewed electronically. Some of his salient points are:

- Quality literary works from our writing community, chosen by our reading community short-edition.com/en. Free reading available from independent authors on the Short Edition platform.
- They have 7,900 recognized authors, 23 million stories read, and 235,000 readers subscribed.
- There are stories of many genres.
- It uses eco-friendly paper and no ink cartridges.
- The dispenser is connected to software.
- You can customize your dispenser with: Back-lit panel, console, paper exit, hood, your logo, and sometimes with your colors.
- We can monitor the unit at a distance with tutorials and alerts.
- Quality stories made and selected by the community on short-edition.com.
- Original short stories available online, for free.
- Writing open to all...and shared on 6 continents via the platform and dispensers.
- If we cannot find the funds for the entire cost of the units, we should consider applying for a grant to help with the expense.
- The unit only requires a power source (electrical outlet).
- It cannot be placed outside unless it is protected (not recommended).
- Maintenance involved: changing the paper on which stories are printed.
- Unit has a 2 year warranty
- Our cost at the present exchange rate will be between \$7,000 and \$9,000.



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- The subscription to the website with the stories is \$200/month. It includes contents update, a dashboard, statistics, auto alerts for paper, and changing message on display screen of unit.
- We could have writing contests and put local authors on the unit.
- It encourages writing through a technology venue.
- They have compiled enough short stories in English so that a patron would not see the same short story until after his tenth request.

A grant from the Knight Foundation allowed PLA (Public Library Assoc.) to purchase 3 dispensers each for 4 different libraries in the United States. I contacted each of these libraries to glean their experience with the dispensers. They don't have them yet but will receive them in June. Most libraries plan to deploy them around their cities in places like: museums, pediatricians' offices, theaters, community gatherings, festivals, and their own libraries. In Wichita, they will have 2 and 3 button dispensers for pediatricians' offices and medical centers. Their first dispenser will be placed in the anchor shop of the vendor to promote literacy. Philadelphia will place their dispensers in: airports, library branches, medical centers, family court building, and their Dept. of Human Services. The idea is to give families time to read while they are waiting for someone to help solve their significant challenges.

This dispenser has been tested in France and has been successful, according to the vendor. We don't have too many in the U.S. yet. I recommend that the City wait to see how the units perform in the U.S. before we invest in them. We should have a better idea of this after June 2018 when those 12 dispensers purchased with the grant arrive.

Respectfully submitted,

Attachment: Price list is included as a separate document.

**PRICE LISTING**

N°

Date

**SHORT EDITION**

12 rue Ampère - Bâtiment A  
 38000 GRENOBLE  
 Tel : 04 76 22 02 61  
 contact@short-edition.com  
 www.short-edition.com

Company :

Address :

Zip Code - City :

Contact :

Phone :

E-mail :

Ref	Designation	Qty	Unit cost USD (tax excl.)	Total USD (tax excl.)
Exchange rate € 1.00 = \$1.182				
<b>Machine purchase</b>				
SSD	Short Story Dispenser	1 to 4	\$ 8,865.00	
SSD	Short Story Dispenser	5 to 9	\$ 8,250.00	
SSD	Short Story Dispenser	10 or more	Quotation on demand	
CUS	Customization of the backlit panel & the stories footer	Included		
PAP	12 Paper rolls / dispenser (certified FSC, BPA free)	Included		
BAL	2 ballasts of 26.5 lbs each / dispenser	Included on demand		
KEY	3 keys / dispenser	Included		
EXT	Extra customisation of the coloured panel	1	\$ 830.00	
<b>Monthly subscription</b>				
SUB	Includes content license, author's copyright, automatic story update, access to the monitoring platform, footer customization update, warranty... One year contract / dispenser.	12	\$ 160.00	
3G	3G connection / month / dispenser	12	\$ 35.00	
<b>Delivery</b>				
DEL	DDP Delivery from \$500 to \$1200 / dispenser depending on location	Quotation on demand		
<b>Special additional services</b>				
YOUTH	Youth short story dispensers or 2 button dispensers (general and youth stories)	Quotation on demand		
CONT	Set up of writing contests			
PLAT	Development of a dedicated community writing platform, linked to your dispensers.			
<b>TOTAL (Tax excl.)</b>				

**IMPORTANT**

This price listing was based on the exchange rate of the day, indicated at the top of this document.  
 The reference prices are the ones in euros.