

by LitChat a minute ago

LitChat: Is Amazon Guilty of Antitrust?

The following is the #LitChat conversation moderated by Judah Freed through Twitter on July 22, 2015 on the topic: Is Amazon Guilty of Antitrust? #LitChat was founded in 2009 by Carolyn Burns Bass (@LitChat). www.litchat.com.



Judah Freed

@judahfreed

#LitChat about Amazon begins now! @ABABook @AuthorsGuild @ibpa @AUTHORSdB @authorsunited71 @nytimesbooks_ @latimesbooks #books



2 HOURS AGO



Judah Freed

@judahfreed

#LitChat We are talking today about Amazon antitrust concerns. I am guest moderating, so please include @judahfreed in your chat tweets.



2 HOURS AGO



Judah Freed

@judahfreed

#LitChat Today's LitChat discusses calls for antitrust investigations of Amazon in the USA and Europe. What is your view of this issue?



2 HOURS AGO



Judah Freed

@judahfreed

#LitChat Leaders and members from ABA, AAR, Authors Guild, Authors United, and IBPA have been invited to the chat. They may join or audit.



2 HOURS AGO

**Judah Freed**

@judahfreed

[#LitChat](#) Two House Rules: 1. Stay on topic. No side chatter, please. 2. Keep the dialog civil. You can disagree without being disagreeable.

2 HOURS AGO

**Judah Freed**

@judahfreed

[#LitChat](#) Background facts: ABA, AAR, Authors Guild, Authors United are urging U.S. Dept. of Justice to investigate Amazon for antitrust.

2 HOURS AGO

**Judah Freed**

@judahfreed

[#LitChat](#) Background facts: The European Union has launched a controversial antitrust investigation into Amazon for ebook market dominance.

2 HOURS AGO

**JA Konrath**

@jakonrath

[@judahfreed](#) Did anyone from the ABA, AAR, AG, or AU confirm they'd chat today? [#LitChat](#)

2 HOURS AGO

**Judah Freed**

@judahfreed

[#LitChat](#) Background facts: In the USA, Amazon sells about 30% of all print books and about 60% all ebooks. Euro percentages vary by nation.

2 HOURS AGO

**Judah Freed**

@judahfreed

[#LitChat](#) Background facts: Amazon has been accused of putting Borders bookstores out of business. Others say Borders undermined themselves.

2 HOURS AGO

**Judah Freed**

@judahfreed

[#LitChat](#) Background facts: Amazon now threatens the viability of Barnes and Noble, some contend. BN has dropped support for its Nook reader.

2 HOURS AGO

**Judah Freed**

@judahfreed

[#LitChat](#) Background facts: Amazon recently rebuffed Apple's antitrust suit. The settlement with Hachette has been styled as an armistice.

2 HOURS AGO

**Judah Freed**

@judahfreed

[#LitChat](#) If you are from ABA, AAR, Authors Guild, Authors United, and IBPA, please identify your affiliation, if you are willing. Thanks.

2 HOURS AGO

**Tony Lavelly**

@tlavelly

[@judahfreed](#) How is B&N technical incompetence Amazon's fault? [#LitChat](#)

2 HOURS AGO

**Judah Freed**

@judahfreed

[#LitChat](#) We are talking about Amazon antitrust issues. I am your neutral guest moderator, so please include [@judahfreed](#) in your chat tweets.

2 HOURS AGO

**Barbara Morgenroth**

@BarbMorgenroth

So far Amazon has been blamed, with weasel words, for the bad stewardship of Borders and BN [#LitChat](#) and we're only 8 min. in.

2 HOURS AGO



Rob Gregory Browne

@Robert_Browne

@judahfreed I suspect this is going to be a one-sided affair... #LitChat



2 HOURS AGO



Tony Lavelly

@tlavelly

@judahfreed How is B&N technical incompetence Amazon's fault? #LitChat Sorry, missed the mod!



2 HOURS AGO



Tony Lavelly

@tlavelly

.@Robert_Browne: @judahfreed I suspect this is going to be a one-sided affair... #LitChat What makes you say that, Rob?



2 HOURS AGO



Rob Gregory Browne

@Robert_Browne

@judahfreed I'm just wondering if anyone from AU, etc., is here or will show up. #LitChat



2 HOURS AGO



52 Novels

@52novels

Apparently not. RT @judahfreed #LitChat Leaders and members from ABA, AAR, AG, Authors United, and IBPA ... may join or audit. #LitChat



2 HOURS AGO



Barry Eisler

@barryeisler

@judahfreed "Some contend" is a "fact"? Technically, I guess, but seems a misleading formulation. #LitChat



2 HOURS AGO

**Pam Stucky**

@pamstucky

[@judahfreed](#) [#LitChat](#) Do the Big 5 understand that if they're dissatisfied with Amazon they can pull all their books & distribute themselves?



2 HOURS AGO

**James Scott Bell**

@jamesscottbell

Where do you draw the line when you investigate success? Who's next? [@judahfreed](#) [#Litchat](#)



2 HOURS AGO

**Barry Eisler**

@barryeisler

[@judahfreed](#) Why not, "Background fact: The Big Five is a monopsonistic cartel controlling the free flow of ideas, some contend. [#LitChat](#)



2 HOURS AGO

**Judah Freed**

@judahfreed

[#Litchat](#) Let's try a tossup question: Do you agree or disagree that Amazon should be investigated for antitrust issues -- and why? Evidence?



2 HOURS AGO

**Barry Eisler**

@barryeisler

[@judahfreed](#) Because hey, that's a fact, too... [#LitChat](#)



2 HOURS AGO

**Jorie Loves A Story**

@JLovesAStory

[@pamstucky](#) [@judahfreed](#) This is a good Q; I was curious about this thread of thought myself; thanks for broaching it! :) [#LitChat](#)



2 HOURS AGO



Rob Gregory Browne

@Robert_Browne

[@judahfreed](#) In short, no. Their actions don't even approach the definition of anti-trust.
[#LitChat](#)



2 HOURS AGO



American Booksellers

@ABAbook

[@judahfreed](#) ABA is auditing! Our CEO is at an ABA Board Meeting & is regrettably unavailable to participate. I'll bring back all Qs [#LitChat](#)



2 HOURS AGO



Barry Eisler

@barryeisler

Amazing none of those orgs purporting to be about authors is showing up, even after the "facts" [@judahfreed](#) has offered them... [#LitChat](#)



2 HOURS AGO



52 Novels

@52novels

[@judahfreed](#) No. Evidence: there are many other places to buy books. Thousands of them, actually. [#LitChat](#)



2 HOURS AGO



Judah Freed

@judahfreed

[#LitChat](#) We are talking for the next 45 minutes about Amazon antitrust concerns. I am guest moderating, so please add [@judahfreed](#) in tweets.



2 HOURS AGO



Joe Vasicek

@onelowerlight

[#litchat](#) As an indie author, Amazon is the reason I have a career. How is it an antitrust issue that they're empowering new authors?



2 HOURS AGO



Rob Gregory Browne

@Robert_Browne

@judahfreed Amazon wants lower prices for consumers. Sounds like a benefit to me and the opposite of what anti-trust is all about. #LitChat

 2 HOURS AGO



Rebecca Cantrell

@rebeccacantrell

@judahfreed But we're not really talking. It's crickets here. Am I missing the answers to the various author questions? #litchat

 2 HOURS AGO



Hugh Howey

@hughhowey

#Litchat @judahfreed Disagree. The DOJ should look instead at lockstep digital royalties and contract terms at known colluders (Big 5).

 2 HOURS AGO



Jacket Bug

@jacketbug

I recall reading stories about Borders spending bank on silly things like walkie-talkies for each employee #LitChat [twitter.com/judahfreed/sta...](https://twitter.com/judahfreed/status/511111111)

 2 HOURS AGO



Rob Gregory Browne

@Robert_Browne

@rebeccacantrell Crickets. Yes. #LitChat

 2 HOURS AGO



Hugh Howey

@hughhowey

#Litchat @Robert_Browne @judahfreed Rob: When people can't compete, they go begging to lawyers, politicians, judges, and the public.

 2 HOURS AGO

**Judah Freed**

@judahfreed

[#LitChat](#). I'm curious about this mix of participants today. Who on this chat is an author, a publisher, bookseller, or a purely a reader?

2 HOURS AGO

**Rob Gregory Browne**

@Robert_Browne

[@judahfreed](#) Why does everyone conveniently forget that Borders and B&N put indie bookstores out of business? [#LitChat](#)

2 HOURS AGO

**52 Novels**

@52novels

[@Robert_Browne](#) [@rebeccacantrell](#) And even the crickets are wondering why there's no chatting. [#LitChat](#)

2 HOURS AGO

**Barry Eisler**

@barryeisler

Waste of time. Once again, Doug Preston, Roxana Robinson et al afraid to defend their reactionary positions. Half funny, half sad. [#LitChat](#)

2 HOURS AGO

**Rob Gregory Browne**

@Robert_Browne

[@hughhowey](#) Ain't that the truth. [#LitChat](#)

2 HOURS AGO

**Tony Lavelly**

@tlavelly

[@Robert_Browne](#) [@rebeccacantrell](#) Don't we all love crickets, though? Be nice to get some substance. [#LitChat](#)

2 HOURS AGO



Rebecca Cantrell

@rebeccacantrell

@judahfreed I'm a NYT bestselling author who also indie publishes. And I read. #litchat



2 HOURS AGO



52 Novels

@52novels

@barryeisler It's past being funny, really. #LitChat



2 HOURS AGO



Hugh Howey

@hughhowey

#Litchat @jacketbug And B&N allowed their review system to turn into a chat board for teenagers. This is about tearing apart the Alpha.



2 HOURS AGO



hopeclark

@hopeclark

- @judahfreed #LitChat An author here. One who's been pretty irritated at the crap thrown at Amazon for building the better mousetrap.



2 HOURS AGO



Tony Lavelly

@tlavelly

@judahfreed Self-pubbed author and reader. #LitChat



2 HOURS AGO



Hugh Howey

@hughhowey

#Litchat @barryeisler How could they defend open-platform KDP as a violation of free-speech? These are Orwellian arguments being FedExed.



2 HOURS AGO



Joe Vasicek
@onelowerlight

@judahfreed Disagree. Antitrust laws protect consumers, not businesses. Lower prices and better selection are better for consumers. #litchat

 2 HOURS AGO



Jorie Loves A Story
@JLovesAStory

@judahfreed I'm here as a reader who regularly attends LitChat; whilst reading the hot topics like this one they moderate too. #LitChat

 2 HOURS AGO



JA Konrath
@jakonrath

@judahfreed The Sherman Act law encourages all firms--monopolists and challengers alike--to continue striving. #LitChat

 2 HOURS AGO



Dale Hartley Emery
@dalewriting

@judahfreed Author here. #LitChat

 2 HOURS AGO



Joe Vasicek
@onelowerlight

Absolutely! #litchat twitter.com/hughhowey/stat...

 2 HOURS AGO



JA Konrath
@jakonrath

@judahfreed Mere harm to competitors--without harm to the competitive process--does not violate the law. #LitChat

 2 HOURS AGO



Hugh Howey

@hughhowey

#LitChat @judahfreed I'm a former indie bookseller, B&N employee, & reader. And I write a little on the side.



2 HOURS AGO



hopeclark

@hopeclark

@judahfreed #LitChat Pitiful that the complainers aren't here. I wanted to hear this argument. Attempt to keep an open mind.



2 HOURS AGO



Joe Vasicek

@onelowerlight

#litchat @judahfreed Author, publisher, and reader here.



2 HOURS AGO



Judah Freed

@judahfreed

#LitChat. Among the authors and publisher here, are the majority of your sales on Amazon or elsewhere? Please specify, if you are willing.



2 HOURS AGO



JA Konrath

@jakonrath

@judahfreed US v Alcoa "The successful competitor, having been urged to compete, must not be turned upon when he wins." #LitChat



2 HOURS AGO



Rob Gregory Browne

@Robert_Browne

@judahfreed @hopeclark Yes. I was hoping AU would show up to explain what the hell they're up to and why. #LitChat



2 HOURS AGO



Rebecca Cantrell

@rebeccacantrell

@judahfreed Amazon for my indie pubbed ebooks, not sure for print because my publisher doesn't give me that data. #litchat

 2 HOURS AGO



Hugh Howey

@hughhowey

#LitChat @jakonrath @judahfreed Exactly. Not only is Amazon not a monopoly, but monopolies aren't illegal.

 2 HOURS AGO



JA Konrath

@jakonrath

@judahfreed #AuthorsUnited won't show up in a debate. They want to control their own slanted media ops. #LitChat

 2 HOURS AGO



hopeclark

@hopeclark

@judahfreed #LitChat I'm traditionally pubbed, but I know the majority of my sales are via Amazon.

 2 HOURS AGO



Josie Litton

@JosieLitton

#LitChat @judahfreed Veteran of years with the BPH here. Amazon claims are a diversion DOJ needs to take a hard look at BPH contracts etc

 2 HOURS AGO



Rob Gregory Browne

@Robert_Browne

@judahfreed I'm both author and publisher and, yes, the majority of my sales are Amazon. They've made it very easy for me. #LitChat

 2 HOURS AGO

**Judah Freed**

@judahfreed

#LitChat Actually, I believe reps from all the orgs are auditing the chat to see what you good people have to say. [twitter.com/hopeclark/stat...](https://twitter.com/hopeclark/status...)

2 HOURS AGO

**Barbara Morgenroth**

@BarbMorgenroth

#LitChat @judahfreed Waste of time when I have a book to finish.

2 HOURS AGO

**Joe Vasicek**

@onelowerlight

@hopeclark @judahfreed Yes, I would very much like to hear the Author's United argument too. Pity no one's here to defend it. #litchat

2 HOURS AGO

**Dale Hartley Emery**

@dalewriting

@judahfreed majority of my sales are on Amazon. I would be delighted if other retailers would sell in similar numbers ;-) #LitChat

2 HOURS AGO

**JA Konrath**

@jakonrath

@judahfreed Amazon has allowed more readers access to more books than any other company in history. #LitChat

2 HOURS AGO

**JA Konrath**

@jakonrath

@judahfreed Writers, publishers, and readers deal with Amazon by choice. With a monopoly, there are no choices. #LitChat

2 HOURS AGO

**James Scott Bell**

@jamesscottbell

MT @jakonrath: @judahfreed US v Alcoa "The successful competitor ... urged to compete, must not be turned upon when he wins." #LitChat



2 HOURS AGO

**Rebecca Cantrell**

@rebeccacantrell

@judahfreed I came to see what the various orgs have to say, since they set up the chat, but I haven't heard even a single tweet #litchat



2 HOURS AGO

**Hugh Howey**

@hughhowey

#Litchat @onelowerlight @hopeclark @judahfreed It's indefensible. I'd like to hear from the reporters who fail to question their rhetoric.



2 HOURS AGO

**Pam Stucky**

@pamstucky

@judahfreed #LitChat What is the Background Fact on who organized this chat? I thought AuthorsUnited peeps would be present. Maybe lurking?



2 HOURS AGO

**hopeclark**

@hopeclark

@judahfreed #LitChat But where's the back and forth? I seriously wanted to hear their thoughts.



2 HOURS AGO

**Joe Vasicek**

@onelowerlight

#litchat @judahfreed About 65% currently. Looking to make it <50%, have never been exclusive. But an anti-trust suit? Not the way to go.



2 HOURS AGO



JA Konrath

@jakonrath

@judahfreed Zon's competition: Apple, Google, Walmart, Barnes & Noble, BooksaMillion, Kobo, Smashwords, Scribd, Oyster, 2000 indies #LitChat

 2 HOURS AGO



Lisa M. Collins

@coolvstar650

@hughhowey @jakonrath @judahfreed Correct...monopolies aren't illegal...as long as antitrust laws aren't broken. #LitChat

 2 HOURS AGO



Rob Gregory Browne

@Robert_Browne

@judahfreed Maybe I'm confused, but it seems to be that Amazon is great for readers, authors AND publishers. So what's the problem? #LitChat

 2 HOURS AGO



Tony Lavelly

@tlavelly

“@judahfreed: #LitChat Actually, I believe reps from all the orgs are auditing the chat [...] So never planned to actually, u kno, talk 2 us?”

 2 HOURS AGO



LaurenBaratzLogsted

@LaurenBaratzL

@judahfreed Former indie bookseller etc, author of 24 trad books + indy, but gotta go take my daughter to try out for rock band. #LitChat

 2 HOURS AGO



diana cacy hawkins

@dianacacy

@judahfreed #litchat as author and publisher, bulk of our sales come from Amazon @marionmbooks

 2 HOURS AGO



hopeclark
@hopeclark

@judahfreed #LitChat Their lack of participation reflects badly. Like a debate where one side listens then goes home to prep an answer

 2 HOURS AGO



JA Konrath
@jakonrath

@judahfreed If #AuthorsUnited dislikes Amazon's practices, how about some civil disobedience? Stop selling on Amazon. #LitChat

 2 HOURS AGO



Judah Freed
@judahfreed

#Litchat. @hopeclark makes a good point. Please do chime in if you are from any of the compaining organizations. twitter.com/hopeclark/stat...

 2 HOURS AGO



Rob Gregory Browne
@Robert_Browne

@jakonrath I think hell will freeze over first. #LitChat

 2 HOURS AGO



Tony Lavelly
@tlavelly

@LaurenBaratzL @judahfreed #litchat Good luck to her!

 2 HOURS AGO



Bridget McKenna
@BridgetMcKenna

@judahfreed What if you hosted a chat to hear what AU, AG, etc had to say for themselves, and no-one showed up? #LitChat

 2 HOURS AGO



Judah Freed

@judahfreed

[#LitChat](#) We are talking for the next 30 minutes about Amazon antitrust concerns. I am guest moderating, so please add [@judahfreed](#) in tweets.



2 HOURS AGO



Nate Hoffelder

@thDigitalReader

[.@judahfreed](#) I'm on as a reader, pundit, writer, and blogger. [#LitChat](#)



2 HOURS AGO



52 Novels

@52novels

[@thDigitalReader](#) [@judahfreed](#) You've missed nothing, Nate. [#LitChat](#)



2 HOURS AGO



Rob Gregory Browne

@Robert_Browne

[@judahfreed](#) It's like we're all afraid to leave in case the "other side" shows up. ;) [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Bridget McKenna

@BridgetMcKenna

[@thDigitalReader](#) [@judahfreed](#) We're opining to an empty room. [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Nate Hoffelder

@thDigitalReader

[@52novels](#) [@judahfreed](#) I was hoping that wasn't the case. [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



JA Konrath

@jakonrath

@judahfreed Q: Name a group that refuses to ever debate their ridiculous points in public. A:
[#AuthorsUnited](#) [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Quintessence ebooks

@loveleov

@judahfreed please explain why the people here should stay when AU etc aren't bothered to show? [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Hugh Howey

@hughhowey

[#LitChat](#) @tlavely @judahfreed Tony, the AG won't even let you comment on their site. Because the 99% would be heard.



AN HOUR AGO



Judah Freed

@judahfreed

[#Litchat](#) @BridgetMcKenna, Today's chat was conceived as an open forum for regulars. Inviting the groups came second. [twitter.com/BridgetMcKenna...](https://twitter.com/BridgetMcKenna)



AN HOUR AGO



Joe Vasicek

@onelowerlight

[#litchat](#) I favor giving writers and readers more independence. The middlemen in publishing oppose that, which is why they attack Amazon.



AN HOUR AGO



Pam Stucky

@pamstucky

@Robert_Browne @judahfreed [#LitChat](#) True. But as exciting as this is, I have books to write, publish, sell. Best wishes to all, esp. indies!



AN HOUR AGO

**James Scott Bell**

@jamesscottbell

What is the legal linchpin for antitrust violation? The theory? "Bigness" is not a legal theory.
[@judahfreed](#) [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO

**Hugh Howey**

@hughhowey

[#LitChat](#) [@Robert_Browne](#) [@judahfreed](#) The problem is that the top 1% of authors had a monopoly. Now they don't. They want it back.



AN HOUR AGO

**JA Konrath**

@jakonrath

[@judahfreed](#) How many 1000s of members in [#AuthorsUnited](#), ABA, Authors Guild, and AAR? And not one will join the chat? Fail. [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO

**hopeclark**

@hopeclark

[@judahfreed](#) [#LitChat](#) Not a monopoly. Amazon out-engineered is all. Spread the wealth a bit, too. We aren't chained to them to sell/publish.



AN HOUR AGO

**York Lord**

@YorkLord

The reps from the orgs are auditing this chat just to see who they want to blacklist next—I'm in!
[#litchat](#) [@judahfreed](#)



AN HOUR AGO

**Tony Lavelly**

@tlavelly

[@judahfreed](#) [#LitChat](#) Time to go fix dinner. It's been real. Sorry the other side buried its collective head... somewhere.



AN HOUR AGO



Nate Hoffelder
@thDigitalReader

Snort. #LitChat [twitter.com/judahfreed/sta...](https://twitter.com/judahfreed/status/1234567890)



AN HOUR AGO



Josie Litton
@JosieLitton

@jakonrath @judahfreed Snowflakes #AuthorsUnited #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Rob Gregory Browne
@Robert_Browne

@hughhowey Heh. First world problems? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Bridget McKenna
@BridgetMcKenna

@judahfreed Glad you hosted the chat. It demonstrates something that we're all alone here.
#LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



J Sinason
@JRSinason

@jamescottbell @judahfreed the theory is that an antitrust violation occurs when a one makes it impossible for anyone to compete #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Judah Freed
@judahfreed

#Litchat @authorsunited71 @AuthorsGuild. Please do speak up today. You've heard others' views. Kindly add your own. [twitter.com/loveleov/statu...](https://twitter.com/loveleov/status/1234567890)



AN HOUR AGO



hopeclark
@hopeclark

Interesting chat at [#litchat](#) about the request that DOJ look at Amazon. A slew of personalities there. [twitter.com/hughhowey/stat...](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Bridget McKenna
@BridgetMcKenna

[@judahfreed](#) [@AuthorsGuild](#) [@authorsunited71](#) Any chance this means AU and AG realize how lame their arguments have been? ...Nah. [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Rob Gregory Browne
@Robert_Browne

[@judahfreed](#) I thought I saw Doug Preston stick his head in the door but I guess I was either mistaken or he ran away. [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



James Scott Bell
@jamesscottbell

Then no case. Lots of competition. [@JRSinason](#) [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



hopeclark
@hopeclark

[@judahfreed](#) [#LitChat](#) Have a feeling that "auditing" means an intern is watching the list and taking notes.



AN HOUR AGO



JA Konrath
@jakonrath

[@judahfreed](#) How many people in [#AuthorsUnited](#), Authors Guild, AAR, all crying "monopoly" and not one has read The Sherman Act? [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Hugh Howey

@hughhowey

#LitChat @judahfreed @authorsunited71 @AuthorsGuild Okay. I'll play Devil's Advocate. I know their position. Others can debate me.



AN HOUR AGO



Bridget McKenna

@BridgetMcKenna

@hughhowey @judahfreed @authorsunited71 @AuthorsGuild You're on! #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Hugh Howey

@hughhowey

#LitChat @judahfreed 1) Amazon has gotten too big. They need to be broken up. Because they might do something bad.



AN HOUR AGO



Rob Gregory Browne

@Robert_Browne

@hughhowey @judahfreed Mr. Preston, or whoever you are, why are you launching this ridiculous crusade? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Joe Vasicek

@onelowerlight

@YorkLord @judahfreed Honestly, the only BPH I haven't blacklisted yet is @BaenBooks. Can't see myself publishing with anyone else. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



JA Konrath

@jakonrath

@judahfreed @hughhowey #AuthorsUnited, isn't it true you're against competition, because then you'll lose your pecking order spot? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Hugh Howey

@hughhowey

#LitChat @judahfreed 2) It's not fair that anyone can publish these days. Many of us worked hard to get agents. Zon provides a shortcut.



AN HOUR AGO



Bridget McKenna

@BridgetMcKenna

@judahfreed @judahfreed You mean something like the big publishers have been doing for the past 30 years? Collusion? Bad contracts? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



James Scott Bell

@jamesscottbell

Raymond Burr was free to fight Godzilla. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Russell Phillips

@RPBook

@hopeclark @judahfreed #LitChat feels like someone is eavesdropping, rather than an actual conversation. I'm really rather disappointed :(



AN HOUR AGO



RCoots

@Xlade

@hughhowey @judahfreed Truth. But then what would stop indies from taking business elsewhere? #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Jason van Gumster

@monsterjavaguns

@jakonrath @judahfreed To be fair, how many #AuthorsUnited folks have actually read the letter intended for the DOJ? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Hugh Howey

@hughhowey

#LitChat @judahfreed 3) Indie ebooks are too damn cheap. Amazon is making it impossible for me to make a living. No one will buy my ebooks.



AN HOUR AGO



Bridget McKenna

@BridgetMcKenna

@jakonrath @judahfreed I think most of them fell asleep about page 12. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



J Sinason

@JRSinason

@jamescottbell competition, in this sense, is more than just being able to sell, there are actually thousands of cable companies.. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Joe Vasicek

@onelowerlight

@judahfreed Yes, thanks for hosting this. #litchat [twitter.com/BridgetMcKenna...](https://twitter.com/BridgetMcKenna)



AN HOUR AGO



Judah Freed

@judahfreed

#Litchat New Question: The consensus here seems against an antitrust investigation. Are you OK with the status quo or what would you change?



AN HOUR AGO



JA Konrath

@jakonrath

@judahfreed #AuthorsUnited What's the end game? Break up Amazon? Do you think that will force readers back to paper books? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



J Sinason
@JRSinason

...but they busted comcast for anti-trust violations a few years ago because they made it impossible for anyone to break through #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Dale Hartley Emery
@dalewriting

Mopolizing trade a felony (Sherman Antitrust Act):law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/15... #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Bridget McKenna
@BridgetMcKenna

@judahfreed What would we change about what specifically, Judah? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Dale Hartley Emery
@dalewriting

Haven't yet found the definition of monopoly. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



J Sinason
@JRSinason

the question is, is Amazon making it impossible to for someone to create the next Amazon? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Rob Gregory Browne
@Robert_Browne

@judahfreed I would change the unconscionable contracts that Trad Pub is offering authors these days... #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



JA Konrath

@jakonrath

@judahfreed Status quo? Nope. I want constant innovation. You know, the kind of thing Big 5 publishers squelched for 50 years. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Bridget McKenna

@BridgetMcKenna

@Robert_Browne @judahfreed And that does NOT include just SAYING the contracts should change, a la Authors Guild. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Rob Gregory Browne

@Robert_Browne

@BridgetMcKenna @judahfreed Yep. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



hopeclark

@hopeclark

@judahfreed #LitChat If they bust up Amazon, the angry roar will be from readers. What will that do for #AU authors?



AN HOUR AGO



Josie Litton

@JosieLitton

@judahfreed #LitChat I'd like to see Apple, Kobo, and even poor Nook (RIP) step up their game so that Amazon doesn't get soft.



AN HOUR AGO



Judah Freed

@judahfreed

#Litchat Here is the letter: authorsguild.org/industry-advoc... twitter.com/monsterjavagun...



AN HOUR AGO



Bridget McKenna

@BridgetMcKenna

@hopeclark @judahfreed It would hurt them along with everyone else. That's why their arguments are so lame. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Pam Stucky

@pamstucky

@hughhowey @judahfreed We need gatekeepers so only high-quality books like this get published! [amazon.com/Actress-Comput...](https://www.amazon.com/Actress-Comput...) #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Joe Vasicek

@onelowerlight

#litchat @judahfreed I believe that exclusivity (eg KDP Select) is a bad deal for readers and writers. Would like to see that changed.



AN HOUR AGO



JA Konrath

@jakonrath

@judahfreed Number of new book titles has gone from 250k in 2002 to 3,000,000 a year. Because #Amazon & other innovators. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Bridget McKenna

@BridgetMcKenna

@pamstucky @hughhowey @judahfreed More Snooki! #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



RI[redacted]JULOUS

@ComKey

@hughhowey @judahfreed Thank GAWD there's a Hugh Howey and @amazon in this world. We finally have a chance at open publishing. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Rob Gregory Browne

@Robert_Browne

@pamstucky @judahfreed Have you BEEN to a bookstore lately? ;) #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



JA Konrath

@jakonrath

@judahfreed #AuthorsUnited letter is a poorly written bad joke.
jakonrath.blogspot.com/2015/07/joes-l... #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Joe Vasicek

@onelowerlight

#litchat @judahfreed I do not believe that state or legal intervention is the best way to do that, though (fight exclusivity).



AN HOUR AGO



Pam Stucky

@pamstucky

@Robert_Browne @judahfreed Have you seen that I Can Be an Engineer book? Appallingly sexist. But: gatekeepers! So it must be good! #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Rob Gregory Browne

@Robert_Browne

@jakonrath @judahfreed Joe, I think is WAS a joke. We're all being punked. That's why no one from AU is here... #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Josie Litton

@JosieLitton

@pamstucky @hughhowey @judahfreed #LitChat Don't forget Snooki!



AN HOUR AGO



Nate Hoffelder
@thDigitalReader

@JRSinason No, Amazon is not making it impossible to create their replacement. It's less effort for Amazon to buy'em. than fight'em #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Judah Freed
@judahfreed

#LitChat I would really love to hear today from anybody representing @amazon. Please speak as well as listen, thanks much.



AN HOUR AGO



Hugh Howey
@hughhowey

#LitChat @JRSinason Alibaba is going to eat their lunch if the AG and AU get their way. Then China is in charge. Detroit 2.0.



AN HOUR AGO



Hugh Howey
@hughhowey

#LitChat @onelowerlight @judahfreed I think signing my ms over to just one publisher is bad. Can I sign my ms over to several publishers?



AN HOUR AGO



Jacket Bug
@jacketbug

Great discussion going on over at #LitChat about the DOJ being asked to look into Amazon's book selling practices.



AN HOUR AGO



Hugh Howey
@hughhowey

#LitChat @Wyres67 @judahfreed Nah, it's because we keep 70% instead of 12.5%. I make more on a \$4.99 ebook than Preston on his \$12.99.



AN HOUR AGO



Joe Vasicek
@onelowerlight

#litchat @hughhowey @judahfreed That's why the only ms I submit are short stories to the magazines.

 AN HOUR AGO



Rob Gregory Browne
@Robert_Browne

@hughhowey @onelowerlight @judahfreed Remind me again. What's a magazine? #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Tom Keller
@TomKellerLV

#Hughhowey I hear jet.com wants to give them a run for their money....Anybody can give it a go... #litchat

 AN HOUR AGO



bcolborne
@bcolborne

#LitChat they did say 4pm EST, no?

 AN HOUR AGO



Dale Hartley Emery
@dalewriting

Here is some of what the FTC has to say about what is a monopoly: ftc.gov/tips-advice/co...
#LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



JA Konrath
@jakonrath

@judahfreed What's the chance that media outlets will report on this chat, and the lack of #AuthorsUnited defenders? #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Hugh Howey

@hughhowey

#LitChat @judahfreed @amazon I think they are busy selling lots of books. Which is somehow bad for the bookselling industry . . .



AN HOUR AGO



hopeclark

@hopeclark

@judahfreed #LitChat But it's not just about indies. Amazonworks for all parties. Of course w/ more players, profits per person lessens



AN HOUR AGO



Rob Gregory Browne

@Robert_Browne

@jakonrath @judahfreed A big fat donut? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Judah Freed

@judahfreed

#Litchat Among the authors here, who's published by a royalty house, and who's self published? If the latter, do you use CreateSpace or LSI?



AN HOUR AGO



Rebecca Cantrell

@rebeccacantrell

@judahfreed You have my condolences on moderating this one sided discussion. I'm sure you expected a dialogue as much as we did. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Bridget McKenna

@BridgetMcKenna

@Robert_Browne @jakonrath @judahfreed I hope words gets around that LitChat invited those guys to a discussion, and they pied out. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Joe Vasicek
@onelowerlight

Yep. Capitalism at work—I just hope they offer 70% royalties too. [#litchat](#)
twitter.com/hughhowey/stat...

 AN HOUR AGO



hopeclark
@hopeclark

[@judahfreed](#) [#LitChat](#) I get the sense, sadly, that it's 1% authors fussing over fewer millions. That's just so crazy.

 AN HOUR AGO



J Sinason
@JRSinason

[@JRTomlinAuthor](#) the internet isn't the old west anymore. Amazon spends millions on search engine marketing per month, [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR AGO



Rob Gregory Browne
@Robert_Browne

[@judahfreed](#) I'm/have been published by both. I use CreateSpace for print on my indie books. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR AGO



J Sinason
@JRSinason

[@JRTomlinAuthor](#) I don't think a startup bookseller is going to have that kind of money [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR AGO



Dale Hartley Emery
@dalewriting

I use CreateSpace for paperbacks. LSI terms scare me. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR AGO



Hugh Howey

@hughhowey

#LitChat @jakonrath @judahfreed 0% chance. They don't report on Amazon. They regurgitate. Almost no journalism being done. [1/2]



AN HOUR AGO



Dan DeWitt

@Dan_DeWitt

Sorry I'm late to the party that never started. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



JA Konrath

@jakonrath

@judahfreed Ebook royalties: Amazon 30%, Publishers 52.5%, Authors \$17.5%. Where is #AuthorsUnited on this issue? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Tom Keller

@TomKellerLV

@judahfreed #LitChat I'm self published... and I use CreateSpace



AN HOUR AGO



Bridget McKenna

@BridgetMcKenna

@Dan_DeWitt Welcome to our choir concert, Dan! #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Hugh Howey

@hughhowey

#LitChat @jakonrath @judahfreed [2/2] Because all those journalists really, really want a choice book contract. And: Elitism.



AN HOUR AGO



JA Konrath

@jakonrath

@judahfreed Penguin and Random House merge, becoming world's biggest publisher. Where is #AuthorsUnited on this issue? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Judah Freed

@judahfreed

#LitChat We are talking for the next 5 minutes about Amazon antitrust concerns. I can stay past the top of the hour if enough of you wish.



AN HOUR AGO



J Sinason

@JRSinason

I wish I had the temperament to self publish, I need an editor even though indie pubs are frustrating sometimes #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Bridget McKenna

@BridgetMcKenna

@JRSinason Plenty of indies hire editors. I'm one, in fact. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Rob Gregory Browne

@Robert_Browne

@JRSinason @judahfreed Why do you assume self publishers don't use editors? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Joe Vasicek

@onelowerlight

#litchat @judahfreed Self-published: KDP, CreateSpace, KWL, NookPress, ARe, DriveThru, and Smashwords/D2D for all the rest.



AN HOUR AGO



Bernie Robinson

@Wyres67

#LitChat @judahfreed I would like to know why @AmazonUK Amazon in general feel the need to remove reviews of ours for Authors we follow, etc

 AN HOUR AGO



Hugh Howey

@hughhowey

#LitChat @judahfreed I'm with Random House, Simon & Schuster, and self-published. I use CreateSpace and LSI.

 AN HOUR AGO



Rebecca Cantrell

@rebeccacantrell

@judahfreed This would interest me to know as well. #litchat twitter.com/Wyres67/status...

 AN HOUR AGO



Chris A. Crawford

@crawwriter

#LitChat @hughhowey Innovation vs. Litigation - in the long run I'll take the former every time. Big5 will be killed by lack of it.

 AN HOUR AGO



hopeclark

@hopeclark

@judahfreed #LitChat I'm royalty published and self-pubbed via CreateSpace

 AN HOUR AGO



J Sinason

@JRSinason

@Robert_Browne @judahfreed you're correct but based on experience lots of the ones I know don't hire editors or do and ignore them #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Dale Hartley Emery

@dalewriting

@judahfreed (I predict a big pile of blog posts in the next 24 hours ;-) #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Tom Keller

@TomKellerLV

@BridgetMcKenna @JRSinason #LitChat As do I since my last book. Always trying to make them better



AN HOUR AGO



Bridget McKenna

@BridgetMcKenna

@TomKellerLV @JRSinason @judahfreed It's the indie way, Tom. :) #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Rob Gregory Browne

@Robert_Browne

@JRSinason @judahfreed Some authors DON'T need editors. I know several. But most indies who aren't using editors are amateurs. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



JA Konrath

@jakonrath

@judahfreed No one owes anyone a living. Welcome to real life, #AuthorsUnited. Stop having your pity party in public. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



hopeclark

@hopeclark

From the #litchat banter going on about Authors Unlimited et al asking DOJ to look at Amazon twitter.com/jakonrath/stat...



AN HOUR AGO

**Judah Freed**

@judahfreed

#Litchat Hmm. Seems we have some good dialogue at last. Keep going or call a halt for today?



AN HOUR AGO

**Bridget McKenna**

@BridgetMcKenna

@judahfreed Can't stick around, but thanks again for doing this and asking questions. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**hopeclark**

@hopeclark

@judahfreed #LitChat Not sure we're doing anything but ranting and stirring ourselves up while they watch and grin.



AN HOUR AGO

**Rob Gregory Browne**

@Robert_Browne

@JRSinason @judahfreed That said, they have the RIGHT to be amateurs. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Judah Freed**

@judahfreed

#Litchat I would welcome feedback on my moderating. I have done my best to stay neutral and keep the chat moving. [twitter.com/dalewriting/st...](https://twitter.com/dalewriting/status/1000000000)



AN HOUR AGO

**Joe Vasicek**

@onelowerlight

#litchat @judahfreed Keep going.



AN HOUR AGO



Hugh Howey

@hughhowey

#LitChat @judahfreed Call us when the other side FedExes their poorly edited and poorly reasoned comments in. :)



AN HOUR AGO



hopeclark

@hopeclark

@judahfreed #LitChat Enjoyed it. Thanks Judah. I need to get back to actually writing.



AN HOUR AGO



Dan DeWitt

@Dan_DeWitt

@judahfreed You did fine, but you didn't have much to work with. Kind of like an announcer trying to keep a blowout interesting. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Rebecca Cantrell

@rebeccacantrell

@judahfreed You were a fine moderator--asking questions, asking for responses from both sides. Too bad one side passed #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Dan DeWitt

@Dan_DeWitt

But the AG/AU et al? They should be ashamed of themselves. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Joe Vasicek

@onelowerlight

#litchat Exactly. [twitter.com/Dan_DeWitt/sta...](https://twitter.com/Dan_DeWitt/status/123456789)



AN HOUR AGO



JA Konrath

@jakonrath

@judahfreed You threw a wedding and the bride didn't show up. #AuthorsUnited #RunawayBride #CowardlyFail #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Judah Freed

@judahfreed

#LitChat. I'll stick for another ten minutes. Let me re-ask: If you could alter the book trade status quo in any way, what would you alter?



AN HOUR AGO



Tom Keller

@TomKellerLV

@judahfreed #LitChat You did fine.



AN HOUR AGO



Dan DeWitt

@Dan_DeWitt

@judahfreed Better contracts from the publishing houses, and for B&N to stop shooting themselves in the face. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



JA Konrath

@jakonrath

@judahfreed I want the DOJ to investigate 50 years of publishing oligopoly, unconscionable contract terms, and exploiting authors. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Josie Litton

@JosieLitton

#LitChat @judahfreed Time to get back to #amwriting but thank you, Judah. Volumes spoken in the silence of #AuthorsGuild et al



AN HOUR AGO



Devin Harnois

@devinharnois

@judahfreed Life of copyright contracts and non-compete clauses need to go. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Rebecca Cantrell

@rebeccacantrell

@judahfreed Agreed! #litchat twitter.com/devinharnois/s...



AN HOUR AGO



Joe Vasicek

@onelowerlight

#litchat @judahfreed My dealbreakers: 1) non-compete clauses, 2) ambiguous rights reversion, 3) payment based on net, not gross.



AN HOUR AGO



Judah Freed

@judahfreed

#LitChat Huge thanks to @LitChat for letting me moderate today. Deep gratitude to all of you who participated. Too many to list in 1 tweet.



AN HOUR AGO



JA Konrath

@jakonrath

@judahfreed The DOJ has deemed the Big 5 a cartel. Time to investigate them. fortune.com/2015/06/30/app... #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Joe Vasicek

@onelowerlight

@judahfreed @LitChat Thanks! #litchat



AN HOUR AGO

**York Lord**

@YorkLord

Trad Pub is a culture. A culture of paying writers in accolades; Appletini brunches and politics. And, oh yeah, books. #litchat @judahfreed



AN HOUR AGO

**Graeme Ing**

@GraemeIng

@judahfreed Thanks for modding. Interesting discussion, if alas one sided. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Ernie Luis**

@FrikkerCUS

@jakonrath @hughhowey @judahfreed Hugh and Joe are eating #AuthorsUnited alive right now. Savages! #LitChat



42 MINUTES AGO

**J. R. Tomlin**

@JRTomlinAuthor

@JRSinason Oh. Right. Amazon didn't begin as a 'start up bookseller'. Of course, they didn't. lol #litchat



40 MINUTES AGO

**Judah Freed**

@judahfreed

#Litchat Participation thanks to @onelowerlight @rebeccacantrell @devinharnois @JosieLitton @jakonrath @Dan_DeWitt @TomKellerLV



38 MINUTES AGO

**Nate Hoffelder**

@thDigitalReader

cough Book Depository *cough* #litchat twitter.com/JRSinason/stat...



37 MINUTES AGO



Judah Freed

@judahfreed

#LitChat participation thanks to @Robert_Browne @hopeclark @BridgetMcKenna @hughhowey @JRSinason @crawwriter @Wyres67



36 MINUTES AGO



Judah Freed

@judahfreed

#LitChat participation thanks to @JRSinason @dalewriting @bcolborne @thDigitalReader @pamstucky @ComKey @monsterjavaguns



36 MINUTES AGO



Judah Freed

@judahfreed

#LitChat participation thanks to @RPBook @jamescottbell @tlavely @YorkLord @tlavely @52novels @dianacacy @LaurenBaratzL



36 MINUTES AGO



Judah Freed

@judahfreed

#LitChat participation thanks to @coolstar650 @BarbMorgenroth @barryeisler @jacketbug @JLovesAStory Accept my apology if I missed you.



35 MINUTES AGO