

- they have access to institutional business, some of them having built this business literally for centuries
- Holland has a "net book agreement". According to this agreement, no bookseller may discount the publisher's "suggested retail price" until two years after date of publication, at which point a great many of the titles are remaindered

This "net book agreement" is administered by the Dutch Publishers'/Booksellers' umbrella organization, and transgressors are fined heavily and ultimately boycotted by this organization, a system which keeps violations at a minimum. This same umbrella organization also regularly sets and adjusts the foreign exchange rate applied to incoming books from other countries. According to Dutch law and EEC law, a representative of the federal government's Ministry of Finance sits on this price fixing committee of the umbrella organization and advises them on how to best accomplish their aims. In addition, the Dutch government defends these policies in the European Parliament in the Hague whenever they are challenged, on the grounds that they are necessary for the preservation of Dutch culture, and despite the fact that they are not legally sanctioned, even under Dutch law.