

**PUBLISHING**

# Twain story set for e-book debut

By CHARITY VOGEL

*News Staff Reporter*

An unpublished story by Mark Twain is going high tech, thanks to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library.

Twain's story "A Murder, a Mystery and a Marriage" will be released worldwide as a new electronic book — known as an "e-book" — on Sept. 1, according to officials at the library, which controls publication rights to the story.

"We will end up not just with a very high-quality product, but with a very adventurous product," said Patrick Martin, attorney for the library. "We will get a product that recognizes Twain's contribu-

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## Book: Project puts Buffalo in the limelight

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tions to Buffalo and to this library."

Besides a full-text copy of the story, the e-book will include background material about Twain himself and the historical period he lived in. The e-book also will include information about Twain's time in Buffalo, where he lived from 1869 to 1871.

"It's a full contextual treatment of this story," said Martin.

The e-book will be available on CD-ROM or can be downloaded from the Internet.

It will be released by the electronic book company LiveReads, in conjunction with Barnes & Noble's online marketing arm. Library

officials are not disclosing how much the library is being paid by the companies. The e-book will sell for about \$10, officials said.

The e-book will appear the same day that W.W. Norton & Co. releases a hardcover edition of the story, library officials said.

Kathryn E. Vedder, director of the Library Foundation, said both the e-book and hardcover editions will serve to build excitement about Buffalo's connection to Twain.

"All of these projects bring national and international attention to the fact that Mark Twain was here, and his connections to the library," said Vedder.

The publication of Twain's 1876 short story ties in with a writing competition being held by the Li-

brary Foundation and the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library.

The contest challenges writers to read the first half of Twain's story and then come up with an ending to the tale. The first half of the story is available online at [www.buffalolib.org](http://www.buffalolib.org) or by contacting the Central Library. The library is accepting entries in the contest until June 25. Winners of the contest, in various categories, will be announced by the library in a gala event this fall.

Martin said he was swayed toward signing a contract with LiveReads after seeing a best-selling e-book treatment the company did of a previously unpublished Jack Kerouac manuscript, "Orpheus Emerged."