



STEVE POTASH

President and Chief Executive Officer of OverDrive

Steve Potash is President and Chief Executive Officer of OverDrive, a company that he founded in 1986. He also serves on its Board of Directors. Steve leads the company focused on OverDrive's vision to create "A World Enlightened by Reading." Under his leadership, OverDrive has become the leading digital reading platform for eBooks, audiobooks, and other digital media serving more than 91,000 libraries, schools, government agencies, corporate learning centers, colleges, and universities worldwide.

A pioneer in the digital book and media distribution industry, Steve was among the first to develop useful applications for electronic books in the 1980s. OverDrive developed products and services for authors and publishers that produced early commercial applications for digital books including on floppy disks, CD-ROM, offering print-to-digital conversion services. The earliest electronic books produced by OverDrive were in partnership with leading law, accounting, and healthcare publishing partners. In 2000, Steve launched OverDrive's flagship digital content distribution hub, OverDrive Marketplace, now one of the largest B2B catalogs in the world for institutional buyers of eBooks and other digital media in over 100 languages. Many of the world's leading publishing houses rely on OverDrive to sell their premium content to a global network of 91,000 libraries and schools in 115 countries.

Steve has been recognized by the industry with various awards. In 2011 he received the first Ambassador Award from the US publishing industry at BookExpo America and in 2016 he was honored by the UJA-Federation of New York Publishing Division. In 2017, Steve was honored as a Distinguished Alumni Award recipient from Cleveland State University. In 2020, Harvard Business School Club of NE Ohio awarded Steve with the George S. Dively Entrepreneurship Award and in 2023, he received the Robert Motter Vendor Appreciation Award from the Oklahoma Library Association. The Steve & Loree Potash Family Foundation funds literacy programs through BelieveinReading.org. In 2021, Steve and his wife Loree gifted \$7.5 million to establish the Steve and Loree Potash Women & Newborn Center at University Hospitals Ahuja Medical Center.

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In addition to the named center, Steve and Loree's gift launched an innovative literacy program called Baby's First Books, ensuring families go home with their first collection of baby books to be read to the newborn.

Steve was a founding member of the Open eBook Forum (renamed International Digital Publishing Forum) and a contributing author for the industry standard eBook format EPUB specification. In addition, through his collaboration with federal and state agencies, Steve has worked extensively for improved digital media accessibility for the visually impaired.

Steve has a bachelor's degree in journalism from The Ohio State University and earned his J.D. at the Cleveland State University College of Law.