

PLR: A PARALLEL TIMELINE



1945		Labour wins post-war election: Clement Attlee becomes Prime Minister
1946	Denmark is first country to set up a PLR scheme	
1950	John Brophy fires first 'shots' in ongoing campaign for authors to receive loans-based, flat rate, government funded public lending right when their books are loaned by the nation's public libraries	Publication of Catherine Cookson's first book, <i>Katherine Hannigan</i>
1951	First PLR bill comes before Parliament and is defeated	Conservatives back in power under Churchill
1953		Queen Elizabeth II accedes to the throne
1959		Xerox launches first plain paper photocopier that uses xerography
1964		Labour wins election and returns to power under Harold Wilson
1965		JK Rowling born Xerox revenues leap to over \$500 million
1966		Last of Boots subscription libraries closes
1969		Laser printer is invented
1970		Edward Heath becomes Prime Minister as Conservatives return to government
1972	Writers Action Group (WAG) set up to campaign for PLR	
1973		Jacqueline Wilson's first book, <i>Ricky's Birthday</i> , published Colour photocopiers are launched Xerox creates the Xerox Alto, the first true personal computer
1974		Labour wins the October election and Harold Wilson becomes Prime Minister for the second time

1975	Writers take to the streets of Central London to demonstrate for PLR	Microsoft founded by Bill Gates Inflation peaks at 24.2%
1976	German collecting society VG Wort holds money for UK writers only payable through a recognised collecting society	
1977	Authors Licensing & Collecting Society (ALCS) established to pay out German PLR & ensure authors are rewarded for secondary use of their work such as photocopying	First commercial laser printers hit the market
1978		IPSS, precursor of the Internet, created
1979	Labour Government passes Public Lending Right Act	Conservatives return to power under Margaret Thatcher
1981	Appointment of first PLR Registrar (John Sumsion)	
1982	PLR scheme gets Parliamentary approval	First Waterstone's bookshop opened ALCS and the Publishers' Licensing Society set up the Copyright Licensing Agency
1984	First PLR payments made to authors PLR announces that Catherine Cookson is the UK's most borrowed author (she remains at the top for the next 20 years)	First Apple Macintosh released complete with a GUI and a "mouse"
1988	PLR Fund increased to £3.5 million	Authors' moral rights are incorporated into UK copyright
1991		World Wide Web launched
1992	Lending Right Directive makes PLR compulsory for all EU Member States	James Patterson's first book, <i>Along Came a Spider</i> is published
1996		Google established Bookpages, an independent online bookstore is established
1997		Labour defeats Conservatives and returns to power under Tony Blair Net Book Agreement ruled illegal Publication of JK Rowling's first Harry Potter title, <i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone</i>
1998		Amazon buys Bookpages and becomes Amazon.com

2000	UK PLR extended to all European Union authors	150 th anniversary of the Public Libraries Act Inflation hits new low of 0.8% Survey reveals that 75% of authors earn less than half the national average wage (<i>Society of Authors</i>)
2001	JK Rowling's <i>Harry Potter</i> books are the UK's 1st, 2nd and 3rd most borrowed children's fiction titles.	EU Copyright in the Information Age directive passed
2002	PLR Fund goes up to £7 million and Rate Per Loan reaches 4.21 pence	First hand-held e-book reader launched Tower Hamlets opens first "Ideas Store"
2004	Jacqueline Wilson succeeds Catherine Cookson as UK's best lending author	Google Book Search launched
2005	Rate Per Loan exceeds 5 pence for first time (5.26p)	US Authors' Guild, Association of American Publishers and individual authors bring lawsuit against Google for scanning/digitizing works without relevant permissions
2006		UK book market continues to grow (3.3% increase over 2005)
2007	PLR launches new online registration service for authors	Survey finds that 33% of UK authors earn less than the minimum wage (<i>What are Words Worth? ALCS</i>) UK's creative industries grow faster than any other sector of the economy at x% (<i>Staying Ahead</i> – DCMS sponsored report) All Party Writers Group (APWG) set up as forum for parliamentarians to consider issues of importance to writers
2008	PLR announces that James Patterson has become UK's most-borrowed author PLR gives public libraries online access to data on library lending via its specially developed LEWIS service December: Parliamentary All Party Writers Group begins discussions towards recommending to Ministers that PLR be extended to cover the use of authors' works in digital format in public libraries	150 th anniversary of the launch of <i>The Bookseller</i> magazine US writers' strike halts studio production: Oscars ceremony downgraded UK Gowers Review of Intellectual Property commissioned & published by government Autumn sees start of global recession October: settlement reached in Authors Guild v. Google

2009	<p>PLR celebrates 30th anniversary of the 1979 Act. Despite reduced funding PLR maintains a Rate Per Loan of 5.98 pence</p> <p>PLR completes development of first Irish PLR system</p>	Lending rates and inflation fall to lowest levels in 20 years. Unemployment climbs towards 2 million
2010	Record Rate Per Loan of 6.29 pence	

