



PUBLIC LENDING RIGHT DATA REVEALS JACQUELINE WILSON IS STILL THE BORROWERS' CHOICE

Figures released today by Public Lending Right confirm that in 2003-2004, books by children's writer Jacqueline Wilson were borrowed over 2 million times from public libraries, thus ensuring her place as the nation's most borrowed author for the second year running.

PLR: Tracking Authors, Books and the Nation's Reading Habits

PLR's data not only tells us who the most borrowed writers and titles are, in the fiction, non-fiction, adult and children's categories, but also gives a fascinating picture of trends in reading habits across the wide range of lending stock in our public libraries. Thanks to an enhanced element of its database system known as LEWIS, PLR can now also track borrowing habits by category and by subject nationally, and regionally. LEWIS can tell you whether cookery books for vegetarians are more popular than those for meat-eaters; who people in Cornwall prefer to get their gardening tips from; and whether the royals are still a hot topic. LEWIS can also provide hard evidence for such growing national obsessions as buying property abroad.

If you would like to ask LEWIS a question about a subject, category, regionally or nationally contact the press team now. Contact details overleaf.

So where are Cookson, Rowling and Bryson?

Last year Jacqueline Wilson put an end to Dame Catherine Cookson's remarkable 17-year reign at the top of the PLR charts. Cookson is now the fifth most borrowed author overall. Holding firm from last year in second and third places are Danielle Steel and Josephine Cox, whilst children's writer Mick Inkpen moves up from fifth to fourth place overall. Within the top 20 there were big rises for authors James Patterson (from 13th to 6th) and Ian Rankin (from 16th to 9th).

JK Rowling takes first place for the most borrowed book: 'Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix'. She has also moved up from 42nd to 29th place in the most borrowed authors list. John Grisham is once again the author of the most borrowed adult fiction title ("The King of Torts"); and Bill Bryson's "A Short History of Nearly Everything" is the most borrowed non-fiction title. *Fuller borrowing details can be found at www.plr.uk.com.*

PLR: a partner in an experiment to market books differently

PLR's new data on the nation's reading habits is underpinning an experimental promotion which hits libraries in February. Borrowers Recommend capitalises on the eclectic tastes of the great reading public, drawing on the reading experiences of the voracious book borrowers of the nation. The promotion is a selection of 21 of the best issuing titles by emerging writers highlighted by the PLR figures. It is the first time that the choice of books for a national reading promotion has been supported by data on borrowing trends.

The promotion comes from Reading Partners – a new consortium of publishers and libraries carving out radical ways of working together to market books differently, amplify the reader's voice and expand the audience for reading. Public Lending Right is a key partner.

"Working with public libraries offers publishers a new way of marketing books, reaching out directly to a ready made audience of book lovers to whom we've not spoken before" [Joanna Prior, Penguin](#)

PLR Payments: a Vital Source of Income Supporting a Creative Nation

The annual PLR payment remains a crucial source of income for many writers and other rights holders whose earnings, on average, are far less than the minimum wage. For 2003-4 the payments made by PLR to authors rose to a record 5.26p per loan (from 4.85 pence in 2002-3).

PLR celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2004. In 1979 an Act of Parliament established the right for authors to receive remuneration for the public's use of their work through public libraries.

Ends/11/02/05

Editors' Notes

1. PLR was established by an Act of Parliament in 1979. It gives authors the legal right to receive remuneration from government for the public's use of their work through the public library system.
2. Following a major five-yearly review, PLR's sponsor department, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), confirmed the government's continuing commitment to PLR as an important means of support for authors. The report praised the way the Scheme is managed by the Registrar and his team, and made a number of recommendations, including support for the extension of PLR to reference books consultations. The report is available on PLR's website.
3. Increase in PLR funding. In December 2004, DCMS announced an increase in PLR funding to £7.6 million with effect from 2006-07. Funding currently stands at £7.3 million for 2004-05 and £7.4 million for 2005-06.
4. In 2005 - relating to book loans during the period July 2003-June 2004 - PLR is distributing £6.55 million to 18,686 authors at a record rate per loan of 5.26 pence.
5. Authors are eligible for payment if their PLR earnings reach a minimum of £5. There is a payment limit of £6,000 for the top-lending authors.
6. Since its inception in 1979, PLR has distributed over £89 million to authors.
7. Author Simon Brett was appointed to succeed Clare Francis as chair of the PLR Advisory Committee in August 2003. The appointment runs for four years.
8. Reading Partners has been set up by The Reading Agency. The publishers involved in the consortium are: Faber; Time Warner; Bloomsbury; Harper Collins; Penguin; Mills & Boon and Random House.

Public Lending Right



Richard House
Sorbonne Close
Stockton-on-Tees
TS17 6DA, UK

t: + 44 (0)1642 604699
f: + 44 (0)1642 615641
www.plr.uk.com