

PLR News

WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF PLR NEWS

The new newsletter aims to bring you a digest of developments in the Scheme during the last year, news of forthcoming events, facts and figures about the Scheme, and details of the current (February 2002) payment round. We hope you will find it both interesting and informative.

FEBRUARY 2002 PAYMENTS

We will be distributing £4.5 million this year at a Rate Per Loan of 2.67 pence (up from last year's rate of 2.49 pence). Payments will go to 17,500 authors, illustrators and other contributors.

Payments will be made during the week beginning Monday 4 February 2002.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR PAYMENT NOTIFICATION

Your Notification of Payment shows the estimated national loans calculated by the PLR computer for each of your books. It also gives the amount each has earned for the loans reported to PLR during the year 1 July 2000 - 30 June 2001. To see how and when you will receive any payment due to you, check the details on the **top right-hand corner** of the notification.

Please remember: you only receive payment for books registered before 30 June 2001. Books you have registered since then will be included in **next year's** statement.

In most cases your payment will go directly into your bank account. To check you have been paid, look out for an entry on your bank statement reading 'PLR', followed by your PLR number, eg **PLR022712**. If you think your payment has not reached your account, please check with your bank in the first instance. If there is still a problem, let us know here at PLR and we will be happy to look into it for you.

HOW IS YOUR PAYMENT CALCULATED?

The Rate Per Loan is worked out each year by dividing the total number of loans of registered books into the money available in the PLR Fund once PLR's running costs have been deducted. The calculation also takes account of money made available for redistribution to authors as a result of the minimum (£5) and maximum (£6,000) payment thresholds.

So, if your books have been borrowed 50,000 times you will receive £1,335 (50,000 x 2.67 pence).

* Please check that your address and bank/building society details are correct and advise us of any change before 28 January, remembering always to quote your PLR number.

PLR FUNDING IS GOING UP

The £2 million increase in PLR funding agreed by the government last year comes on

stream in April and will have an impact on the February 2003 payments.

'BRANCHING' OUT

The PLR library sample continues to grow and this year we included 370 branches from every region of the UK. In all, we collect 10% of UK book loans. These are averaged up to give an estimate for the national book loans of each registered book. The cost of data collection

means we can't go to every public library, but a third of the libraries in the sample change annually to ensure that authors of books of local or regional interest will feature periodically.

WHAT YOU THINK OF PLR

Many thanks to those of you who completed and returned our questionnaire seeking your views on the operation of the Scheme and the developments you would like to see in future. We sent out 750 questionnaires to a random selection of authors and to date over 520 people have responded. This is some of the feedback so far:

90% of you said that your PLR payments were important to your income, and 45% said that PLR payments made a significant contribution to incomes. This is important to know and will feature in our case to the government for more funding in the next funding review.

There was a lot of interest in the idea of extending PLR to authors outside Europe whose books are borrowed from UK libraries, particularly if this leads to reciprocity. Only 2% did not support the idea.

73% welcomed the opportunity to communicate with us by e-mail and would like to be able to register their books over the internet.

On expanding the PLR library sample you were evenly divided. Half are in favour of staying with public libraries and improving the size and representativeness of the existing sample; the other half advocate extending PLR to school and university libraries.

(A full report will be available from the PLR office early next year.)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I agree shares?

Shares should be agreed between contributors prior to applying for PLR registration. Shares can be agreed either verbally or in writing (this includes e-mails). The percentage split should reflect individual contributions to a book, and the figures should be whole numbers (ie not 33.3%). If you cannot contact your co-author or illustrator, your publisher may be able to put you in touch. If not, the PLR office may be able to help with contact details.

If my co-author is dead or can't be traced, why can't I have the full 100% PLR share in my book?

Your PLR share must reflect your individual contribution to the book in question. Payments relating to any unallocated shares remain in the PLR Fund and are redistributed. If a co-author is deceased or cannot be traced, you may claim whatever share appears reasonable in relation to your contribution.

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

The PLR scheme has distributed almost £71 million to authors since its inception.

Most borrowed adult fiction author remains Catherine Cookson.

9 of the 20 most borrowed authors write for children

The Top Twenty non-fiction books include:

Men are From Mars, Women are From Venus by John Gray (4)
Three Delia Smith's cookery books (11,12, 18)
Autobiographies by Michael Crawford, Alex Ferguson and Terry Wogan (9,13,20)
(positions in brackets)

If the following classic authors were still alive this is what they would have earned this year

AA Milne	£6,000 (maximum)
Beatrix Potter	£4,122
William Shakespeare	£3,279
Jane Austen	£3,031

UNDER REVIEW

PLR is under review by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), our sponsor department. Questions being asked include:

- Is there a continuing need for PLR?
- Should its administration be taken from the Registrar and contracted out?
- Should the scheme's scope be extended?

Do you have a view on these or other issues you would like to contribute? You can get a copy of the review consultation paper from the PLR office, or you can consult it on both the DCMS (www.culture.gov.uk) and PLR web-sites.

INTERNATIONAL PLR

30 countries have PLR legislation, but only 15 have taken the next step and set up PLR systems. This may soon be 16 when France sets up a scheme later this year. There are hopes that British authors will benefit from loans of their books from French libraries.

Money for UK authors may also be coming in soon from Dutch PLR via ALCS (Authors Licensing & Collecting Society).

The UK Scheme coordinates the international PLR network which brings together the various PLR countries. For the latest news on PLR developments world-wide, why not visit the International PLR Network web-site at www.plrinternational.com, or the ALCS web-site at www.alcs.co.uk.

FOCUS ON THE PLR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Committee advises the Registrar and the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the operation of the Scheme. Recently it fought hard (and successfully) for an increase in PLR funding. The Committee has a chair and seven other members. Four of these – Clare Francis (chair), Hilary Mantel, Theresa Breslin and Maggie Gee – are authors. Appointments are for three years, and are

made by the Secretary of State. The Committee is currently reviewing the Scheme's maximum payment threshold. Do you have views on this? Should it be increased in line with inflation (the last increase – to £6,000 – was in 1989). Do let us know what you think by e-mailing the Registrar, dropping us a line or visiting our web-site where you can record your views (details below).

PLEASE REMEMBER ...

- PLR earnings of less than £5 are not paid out - but we are looking at ways in which we could carry these amounts forward into subsequent years and pay them out when they do clear the £5 threshold.
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- You must register separately any new editions (eg paperback, large print) of hardback titles you have already registered with us as they will have different ISBNs.
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- If you live in the UK, Income Tax will not have been deducted from your PLR payment. You should declare your payment as income on your tax return.
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- If you live abroad you will be paid in Euros and tax will be deducted. To avoid tax deduction in future, you may be able to take advantage of the Double Taxation Agreement that the UK has in place with many foreign countries. Application forms are available from the Inland Revenue (tel: +44 115 974 2021). Alternatively, you can contact the PLR office for help.

**Public Lending Right
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TS17 6DA**

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Fax: +44 (0)1642 615641**

**E-mail: registrar@plr.uk.com
authorservices@plr.uk.com**

**Website: www.plr.uk.com
www.plrinternational.com**

In accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 Public Lending Right confirms that the data that you provide in registering with this organisation will be used only for the purposes of administering any payments that may be due to you under the PLR system. Data will not be used for other purposes unless separate and specific consent has first been given by you.

SUPPLEMENT TO PLR NEWSLETTER

PLR FACTS AND FIGURES

Payment date

February 2002

Expenditure

Government funding	5,201,000
Operating costs	726,228
Payments to authors	4,503,593
Rate per loan	2.67p

Authors earnings

£5,000 - £6,000	169*
£2,500 - £4,999.99	272
£1,000 - £2,499.99	584
£500 - £999.99	750
£100 - £499.99	3,400
£5 - £99.99	<u>12,406</u>
Total recipients	17,581

Authors not receiving a payment

Book loans generating payments below £5 threshold	11,571
No book loans	5,068

Registrations

Book interests (total)	334,936
Interests registered to `new` authors	6,418
Interests registered to `old` authors	11,727

Sample book loans

Total UK loans	430m
Loans sampled by PLR	41m
(as % of UK loans)	10%
Registered loans (est)	193m
(as % of UK loans)	45%

*includes payments to 130 authors where the maximum threshold of £6,000 applied