WHAT BOOKS ARE LIBRARY USERS BORROWING?

Latest PLR data shows the most borrowed authors in UK libraries

For the eighth year running, US thriller writer James Patterson retains his crown as the UK’s most borrowed author, according to data released today by Public Lending Right.

Six children’s authors are among the top 10 most borrowed authors. They are Daisy Meadows, the brand behind the “Rainbow Magic” series (2nd); former Children’s Laureate, Julia Donaldson (3rd), Francesca Simon, author of the “Horrid Henry” series (4th); Adam Blade (6th); Jacqueline Wilson (7th); and Roald Dahl (10th).

Julia Donaldson commented: “I'm thrilled that my books are being widely borrowed from libraries, which are some of my favourite places. I developed my own love of books in my local library and would quite possibly not otherwise have become a writer myself. When I was the Children’s Laureate and went on a six-week library tour I was impressed with how libraries continue to inspire today’s children, from the popular Rhyme-Time sessions for toddlers through to the homework clubs for schoolchildren. With the closure of so many bookshops the libraries have an added importance, and it’s important that they remain open and at the heart of our communities. It is wonderful to receive my PLR statement each year and I am pleased that PLR has now been extended to audio-books. This comes after many years of authors and their organisations seeking for the inclusion of audio-books in PLR. So, this extension comes as a very welcome development.”

Top 10 Most Borrowed Authors, 2013/14 (2012/13 position in brackets)

1. James Patterson (1) 6. Adam Blade (8)
2. Daisy Meadows (2) 7. Jacqueline Wilson (5)
3. Julia Donaldson (3) 8. Nora Roberts (6)
4. Francesca Simon (4) 9. Lee Child (12)
5. M C Beaton (7) 10. Roald Dahl (14)

David Walliams is at 74 (up from 157th last year and 430th in 2011/12) in the PLR Top 500 most borrowed authors. Other big risers include Holly Webb (up to 41st from 68th last year) and Valerie Thomas (up to 67th from 115th).

M C Beaton author of the Agatha Raisin and Hamish Macbeth crime fiction books is the most borrowed British author of books for adults, at number five.

Top 10 Most Borrowed Titles, 2013/14

1. Inferno 6. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw
   Dan Brown  Jeff Kinney
2. Never Go Back 7. Diary of a Wimpy Kid
   Lee Child  Jeff Kinney
3. A Wanted Man 8. Private Down Under
   Lee Child  James Patterson & Michael White
4. Diary of a Wimpy Kid 9. Six Years
   Jeff Kinney  Harlan Coben
5. Private Down Under 10. The Dying Hours
   James Patterson & Michael White  Mark Billingham

Jamie Oliver’s Save With Jamie: Shop Smart, Cook Clever, Waste Less just missed out on a place in the Top 10 Most Borrowed Titles, coming in at number 11. This is a rare appearance in the Top 100 by a non-fiction title.
E L James who was in at No 3 last year with *Fifty Shades of Grey* does not appear in the Top 100 Most Borrowed Titles list this year.

Public Lending Right (PLR) was established by Act of Parliament in 1979. It gives authors the legal right to receive payment from government each time their books are loaned through the public library system.

In February 2015, PLR will make payments totalling £6 million to 22,053 authors. This year’s Rate Per Loan is 6.66 pence.

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**Editors’ Notes**

1. The Public Lending Right scheme is the responsibility of the British Library. It is administered from PLR’s existing offices in Stockton-on-Tees.

2. PLR is funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) through the British Library. This year PLR is distributing £6 million to 22,053 authors at a Rate Per Loan of 6.66 pence. Since its inception in 1979, PLR has distributed over £150 million to authors. PLR funding for 2015-16 will be £6.6 million. Funding beyond 2015-16 will be announced in the forthcoming Spending Review.

3. Authors are eligible for payment if their PLR earnings reach a minimum of £1. There is a maximum payment threshold of £6,600 for the top-lending authors. This year, 190 authors will receive the maximum payment.

4. The Digital Economy Act, passed in March 2010, cleared the way for the UK PLR legislation to be extended to include public library loans of audio-books (‘talking books’) and ebooks downloaded to library premises for taking away as loans (‘on-site’ ebook loans). The UK PLR Scheme has been extended from 1 July 2014.

The government-commissioned Sieghart Report (published December 2014) on the future of public libraries in the UK has recommended that the government seeks to secure changes in European and UK copyright law in the next legislative term to extend PLR to include remote ebook loans.

5. British authors qualify for payment from a number of other European PLR systems. These include the Irish PLR system which is now administered through the UK PLR office on behalf of the Irish government. Payments to UK authors from PLR systems in countries such as France, Germany, Austria and the Netherlands are distributed by the Authors’ Licensing & Collecting Society.

6. PLR’s data analysis system (LEWIS) offers public libraries a vital tool to support effective and efficient business decisions. The analysis gives them a comprehensive picture of national reading trends, changes in our national and regional reading habits and a fascinating insight into our preferences, pastimes and obsessions.

7. “What Are Words Worth Now?”, a survey commissioned by the Authors’ Licensing & Collecting Society (ALCS) and carried out by Queen Mary University of London found that in 2013, just 11.5% of professional authors earned their incomes solely from writing. In 2005, 40% of professional authors said that they did so.

8. It was announced in January 2015 that James Patterson has donated £50,000 to a new prize (The World Book Day Award) that will fund school libraries.

9. For all the latest news follow PLR on Twitter @PLR_UK.