LATEST LIBRARY BORROWING DATA RELEASED

Five Interesting Facts & Figures

1. **The `King of Library Lending'**

   Prolific US writer James Patterson was the most borrowed author from UK public libraries during 2015/16 for the tenth consecutive year. He has held this title since 2006/07 and during that time his books have been borrowed over 20 million times.

   His most popular title with library borrowers during 2015/16 was *Alert*.

2. **Classic author hits the Top 10**

   *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee made a splash in the Top 10 most borrowed books from UK libraries during 2015/16 by being the 7th most popular book with UK library borrowers.

   She was also the fifth most borrowed classic author during 2015/16 and has regularly featured in the top 20 most borrowed classic authors. The popularity of *Go Set a Watchman* ensuring she moved up from 18th position in 2014/15. *To Kill a Mockingbird* has been the most borrowed classic title for the last three years.

3. **“Magic Key” popular choice with younger borrowers**

   Libraries continue to be important for children. New to the top 10 was UK author Roderick Hunt who became the fourth most popular author in UK public libraries during 2015/16 with over 1 million loans. He moved up 10 places from the previous year (14th). Two years ago was in 30th position.

   Roderick Hunt, author of the “Magic Key” series which form part of the Oxford Reading Tree scheme, commented: “It’s a great privilege to be one of PLR’s most borrowed authors as I hope my stories encourage children to love reading and become life-long readers. There is no better place to discover the rich treasure-trove of books to be read for both pleasure and for information than in local libraries. And where better than the library to browse and borrow and be beguiled by books.”

4. **Top non-fiction author**

   Mary Berry was the most borrowed non-fiction author during 2015/16 and overall was the 193rd most popular author with borrowers. *Mary Berry Cooks the Perfect* was her most borrowed title and clocked up over 14,000 loans.

5. **Payments to authors for library loans**

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

   In February 2017 PLR will be distributing £6 million at a Rate Per Loan of 7.82 pence. 22,202 authors will receive a payment of between £1 and £6,600 including 205 authors who will receive the maximum payment of £6,600.
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 22,202 authors at a Rate Per Loan of 7.82 pence. Since its inception in 1979, PLR has distributed over £160 million to authors. The Chancellor announced the results of the government’s spending review in 2015. As part of this announcement the British Library was informed that PLR has received a ‘flat-cash’ settlement. Its funding will therefore remain at £6.6m up to 2019.

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, 205 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.

Further legislation to extend UK PLR to include remote loans of ebooks is currently being drafted following changes in European copyright law.

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