

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY?

### PLR data reveals the regional variations in borrowing data

The latest annual data released today by Public Lending Right (PLR) shows the most borrowed books and fascinating variations in lending in libraries across the UK during 2016-17.

**The most borrowed title overall for the UK was the Paula Hawkins' *The Girl on the Train*.**

MOST BORROWED TITLES BY REGION 2016-17	
<b>Eastern counties</b>	
<i>Sunshine Over Wildflower Cottage</i>	Milly Johnson
<b>London</b>	
<i>The Girl on the Train</i>	Paula Hawkins
<b>North East</b>	
<i>Night School</i>	Lee Child
<b>North West &amp; Merseyside</b>	
<i>The Girl on the Train</i>	Paula Hawkins
<b>South East</b>	
<i>After You</i>	Jojo Moyes
<b>South West</b>	
<i>The Magic Finger</i>	Roald Dahl (illus Quentin Blake)
<b>West Midlands</b>	
<i>Make Me</i>	Lee Child
<b>Yorkshire &amp; The Humber</b>	
<i>Night School</i>	Lee Child
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	
<i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School</i>	Jeff Kinney
<b>Scotland</b>	
<i>The Girl on the Train</i>	Paula Hawkins
<b>Wales</b>	
<i>The Girl on the Train</i>	Paula Hawkins

Regional variations show that British authors were extremely popular in **Eastern counties** with all of the Top 10 most borrowed books being by homegrown authors including Milly Johnson, Elly Griffiths and Liz Pichon.

**London** is the only region to have any non-fiction titles in its Top 10. *The Official DSA Theory Test for Car Drivers* and *Life in the UK Test: Study Guide 2016* come in at number two and four respectively.

Across the northern counties readers in the **North East** have a penchant for crime/thrillers with seven of the books in the top 10 belonging to this genre. Borrowers in the **North West & Merseyside** ensured that nine of the top 10 most borrowed books also belonged to this category.

British writer Jojo Moyes hit the number one spot in the **South East** with *After You* her sequel to *Me Before You*. There was a good mix of books in their top 10 including titles from Ian Rankin, Sebastian Faulks and Maeve Binchy.

Readers in the **South West** showed their allegiance to classic author and children's favourite Roald Dahl with the top nine titles belonging to him and illustrator Quentin Blake.

Crime, again, was prominent in **Yorkshire & The Humber** with the top two titles by the British born novelist Lee Child. He also hit the number one spot in the **West Midlands** where over half of the titles in the Top 10 belonged to the crime genre.

**Northern Ireland** readers picked a mix of children's books in their top 10. Authors included Jeff Kinney, Julia Donaldson, David Walliams, Francesca Simon and Sebastien Braun.

In **Scotland**, crime once again prevailed. The Scottish borrowing public ensured that three local authors Ian Rankin, Peter May and Stuart MacBride made it into their top 10.

Number one title for the UK, *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins was the number one choice in **Wales**, where crime fiction and thrillers took the top 10 spots.

The PLR office has published details of the top 100 titles borrowed from the government regions together with a list of the UK top 100 titles. These can be found on media section of the PLR website.

In order to receive payments authors must register for PLR. Writers, illustrators, photographers, editors, translators, narrators, producers, abridgers can apply via the UK PLR office. In February 2018 PLR distributed £6 million to 22,108 authors at a Rate Per Loan of 8.20p.

Further details can be found on the PLR website: [www.bl.uk/plr](http://www.bl.uk/plr).

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### **Editors' Notes**

1. PLR is funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and is run by the British Library from its site at Boston Spa, West Yorkshire. This year PLR distributed £6 million to 22,108 authors at a Rate Per Loan of 8.20 pence. Since its inception in 1979, PLR has distributed over £166 million to authors. PLR funding is currently set at £6.6m up to 2019.
2. 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, 195 authors received the maximum payment.
3. The Digital Economy Bill 2017 extended UK Public Lending Right legislation to include remote loans of ebooks from public libraries in England, Scotland and Wales. The collection of remote ebook loans data came into effect on 1 July 2018. Payments arising from the newly eligible loans will be made in February 2020.
4. British authors qualify for payment from a number of other European PLR systems. These include the Irish PLR system which is 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 (ALCS).
5. The ALCS research, Authors' Earnings 2018: A survey of UK writers shows median earnings of professional writers – that is those who dedicate over half their working hours to writing – has fallen by 42% in real terms since 2005 and by 15% since 2013. The median annual income of a professional writer now stands at under £10,500, well below the minimum wage. The number of professional writers earning their income solely from writing has fallen to 13.7% while the gender gap has increased with the average earnings of female professional authors only around 75% of those of the average male professional writer, a drop from 78% in 2005.
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