

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 2018 - 19.

The Top 20 for each region can be found on the PLR website: www.bl.uk/plr.

MOST BORROWED TITLES BY REGION 2018 – 2019

East Midlands – *Dead in the Dark* – Stephen Booth
Eastern counties – *The World's Worst Children* – David Walliams
London – *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* - Gail Honeyman
North East – *The Midnight Line: (Jack Reacher 22)* - Lee Child
North West & Merseyside – *The Midnight Line: (Jack Reacher 22)* - Lee Child
South East – *The Midnight Line: (Jack Reacher 22)* - Lee Child
South West - *The World's Worst Children* – David Walliams
West Midlands – *The Midnight Line: (Jack Reacher 22)* - Lee Child
Yorkshire and the Humber – *The Midnight Line: (Jack Reacher 22)* - Lee Child
Northern Ireland – *The World's Worst Children* – David Walliams
Scotland – *The Midnight Line: (Jack Reacher 22)* - Lee Child
Wales - *The Midnight Line: (Jack Reacher 22)* - Lee Child

Regional Variations

The most borrowed title overall in the UK during 2018-2019 was Lee Child's *The Midnight Line: (Jack Reacher 22)* which topped the list in 7 of the 12 regions – **North East, North West & Merseyside, South East, South West, West Midlands Yorkshire and Humber and Wales**. Of the other 5 regions David Walliam's *The World's Worst Children* was top in **Eastern regions, South West and Northern Ireland**. *Dead in the Dark* by Stephen Booth topped **East Midlands** and Gail Honeyman's debut novel *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* was the favourite in **London**.

Thrillers and crime were popular with most regions seeing their most popular title fall into this category. The exceptions to this were in The **Eastern regions, London and Northern Ireland** where children's titles topped the list.

The majority of **Scotland's** Top 20 consisted of Crime/Thriller titles with home grown Scottish authors Ian Rankin, Val McDermid and Stuart MacBride proving popular. British Crime/Thriller writers were popular in the majority of regions, with the exception of **East Midlands, North West and Yorkshire and the Humber** regions whose borrowers preferred American authors such as Lee Child, Michael Connelly, John Grisham, David Baldacci and James Patterson.

In **Northern Ireland** 18 of the top 20 were children's titles with Liz Pichon, David Walliams and Jeff Kinney proving popular. Children's titles also proved popular in **London** with 1 of the top 20 being of this genre. David Walliams, Julia Donaldson and Roald Dahl proved firm favourites

Non-fiction titles made an appearance in the Top 20 of only two regions. These were *The Guinness Book of Records 2019* in **Northern Ireland** and *Doing a literature review in health and social care: a practical guide* by Helen Aveyard in **The West Midlands**.

The results are based on loans attributed to these authors and titles. As well as reflecting the popularity in public libraries, the rankings reflect the constantly changing [PLR Sample](#), and can also be impacted by the availability and quality of bibliographic data used when compiling the lists

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The PLR office is happy for the information in this release to be made widely accessible, but would appreciate PLR's role in compiling it to be acknowledged in any use it is put to.

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 21,697 authors at a Rate Per Loan of 9.03 pence. Since its inception in 1979, PLR has distributed over £178million to authors. PLR funding is currently set at £6.6m up to 2020.
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, 200 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. The first payments arising from the newly eligible loans were 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).
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