



PUBLIC LENDING RIGHT

1979 — 2019

Authors celebrate the first
four decades of the Public
Lending Right



210 messages
of congratulation, gratitude,
support and affection.

Happy birthday from everyone
at the Society of Authors and
the 11,000 writers, illustrators
and translators we represent.

Here's to the next 40 years.





Establishing PLR was a great achievement. It entrenched the principle that writers ought to be paid for their work, whether it's bought or borrowed, and it let many authors and illustrators go on earning while their books were being enjoyed, even if they'd gone out of print.

PHILIP PULLMAN

For several decades I've been privileged to be in the top 150 Most Borrowed Authors from UK libraries. That doesn't make me rich, but the regular cheque from the wonderful PLR helps to make writing a viable way of making a living. Big love to PLR and libraries everywhere.

LAURENCE ANHOLT

I'm really grateful for PLR programme because it acknowledges the value of authors and illustrators and recognises our contribution to society, education and the arts. Happy 40th birthday!

STEVE ANTONY

As a reader and frequent library user I want to know that authors are getting paid for the books I read. I don't have much money and I deeply appreciate still being able to read voraciously (we are so lucky to have libraries) but authors should be recognised accordingly!

LIZA TAIT BAILEY (READER)

Sometimes my PLR rate is more than my royalties, and much appreciated but what I love is that utter thrill of knowing a child went to the library and took one of my books out. Can't beat that feeling!

KARIN CELESTINE

As both author, voracious reader and almost lifelong library user, there's nothing not to love about you, PLR. Happy 40th and here's to the next forty, at least!

MAUREEN CARTER

PLR has saved my financial life on more than one occasion. I am so grateful. Libraries are so important to both readers and authors, and they need our support, not cuts. Happy 40th PLR - you rock!

LUCY COATS

Seeing how often my books have been borrowed each year lifts my heart every time!

ROWAN COLEMAN



Did you know that I earn more every time one of my books gets borrowed from the library – thanks to PLR – than when the same book is bought at discount price? PLR is a lifeline for authors and illustrators – we couldn't afford to keep working without it!

HELEN DOCHERTY

Invaluable. Often the PLR went to pay that worrying tax demand but it was also proof that my books were out in the libraries and being read. I was not a totally invisible author. So HUGE THANKS, PLR, and everyone involved with it. Happy birthday to you and for us!

PENNY DOLAN

It's to get a little extra money (for my one small children's book) but maybe even better to know there are still kids out there reading it.

GREGORY EVANS

PLR is amazing. On many occasions money has arrived just in time to nudge my account back into the black. It's kept me going. More than that, it's also allowed me to see how my books (which were written on a flat fee) are doing. It's shown me they matter, and are being borrowed.

DAWN FINCH

PLR is a wonderful thing. Writers look forward to February so much! Makes a huge financial difference to very many people. Happy 40th Birthday!

ADELE GERAS

PLR is brilliant in so many ways. It rescues authors from financial catastrophe, and strengthens the bond between us and libraries. It's the best kind of joined up funding. Let's have another 40 years!

FLEUR HITCHCOCK

Receiving the PLR statement always comes as an unexpected surprise... like a very special bonus. It endorses that as writers we exist. Our books are out there and being read and enjoyed. It would be a sad reflection on what the Government feels is important if it were scrapped.

DIANNE HOFMEYR

Happy 40th birthday, PLR! My PLR is rarely over £5 but knowing someone in some obscure place read my books is priceless!

MAGGIE HUMM

PLR allows me to read to my heart's content without fear of the cost. Thank you, authors. I think that you deserve a higher return for all your hard work.

JOAN (READER)

Happy 40th birthday PLR! Your annual lifesaving/enhancing injection of income is SO appreciated – as is the fair distribution of £ when disparities among author income can be keenly felt in sales. Seeing how many kids had access to my books ALWAYS gives me The Glow. Thank you!

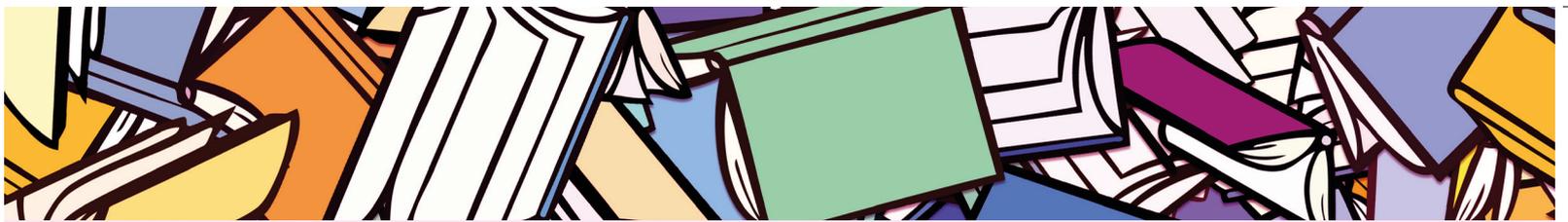
PIP JONES

PLR is nothing but good news. Good news that my books are still being read long after publication; good news that I can pay a bill, make a journey, or have a treat, and good news that we still have our libraries with everything that means for our communities.

CLAIRE KING

PLR is a message from libraries to authors that books are borrowed, loved and remembered. It is an acknowledgement from government that we exist, our work counts, it is valued. It's also a make or break sum of money that helps authors survive.

JAMES MAYHEW



Some of my happiest childhood memories involve reading and visits to the library. Going to the library is still one of my greatest pleasures. It provides access to whole new worlds. For the voracious readers us it allows us to devour more books than we can afford to buy.

MICHELLE M MCGRATH

PLR used to pay my overdraft off. Long before I got royalties I was always pleased to see my PLR. And to know that someone has taken the book out from the library, that's the best thing.

JACKIE MORRIS

Every year, PLR reminds me that children are still reading my books in public libraries. When I was a child, the library was my refuge and my joy, so this is a priceless gift. (Having said that, the additional income is also hugely appreciated now that I'm a pensioner!)

RONNE RANDALL

It's on record that the majority of authors earn below the minimum wage. PLR helps us feel valued. It also highlights the unique and essential relationship between libraries, creators and readers.

HILARY ROBINSON

PLR is a real lifeline, a boost to our often precarious income – and it's wonderful to know there are all those readers out there visiting their local libraries and borrowing our books. Happy birthday PLR! And many happy returns!

CATH STAINCLIFFE

PLR is great for authors and for readers. Not everyone can buy every book they want to read and PLR means both authors and readers benefit, when books are borrowed from libraries.

Win-win!

LINDA STRACHAN

PLR is a big help. Everything helps in this game! Happy birthday PLR. Here's to another 40 years.

JULIE SYKES

PLR is amazing. Seeing how many readers have found my books via libraries makes my day. Happiest of birthdays, PLR, and thank you.

SARAH TODD TAYLOR

Hurray for PLR and all readers and libraries. PLR is always a great support especially for unknown writers/illustrators and also amazing to think of your books out there in the world. Thank you.

CAROLINE UFF

Just to wave the Shirley Hughes flag – initially put forward for just authors it was who piped up and got illustrators included in PLR too. Hurrah!

Just to add, PLR was a fantastic achievement spearheaded by the Society of Authors – you are far too well-mannered to show off about it but we must put out the bunting for you too!

CLARA VULLIAMY

I didn't know anything about PLR before I was published, but what a brilliant thing! It makes me feel connected to libraries across the country – a particularly lovely feeling as I'm pretty sure my excellent local libraries made me a writer in the first place.

JEN WILLIAMS

Thank you so much for the PLR payments I have so far received, surprising and delighting me.

With grateful thanks to all librarians and readers,

JO WELCH (J D WELSH ON COVERS)



As one of the original campaigners for PLR, I am delighted and relieved every year to get my cheque. It's never not needed! I love readers and library users who can't buy books helping authors in this way.

AMANDA CRAIG

Can I add my congratulations on your 40th birthday. As an author to whom PLR gave much needed income at the time and whose in-print books are now a fading memory, it is still marvellous when I get the occasional cheque from you to remind me of my published days. Thank you very much for your fine work.

DICK BATEMAN

Happy 40th Birthday and a huge THANK YOU for helping authors like me to make a living from our writing!

JONATHAN EMMETT

I would like you to know that PLR has been wonderfully helpful to me over the years as a source of income, when I had very little.

I thank you for this and hope you have a very happy birthday.

Kind wishes,

HELEN (MCCABE)

Survived to 40? You're doing well! Please look after yourself and remember how important you are to the bottom line of hardworking authors everywhere.

JANE WEST

I value PLR enormously and thank the members of the organisation for all their work.

SUE MOORCROFT

We couldn't do without you.

JEAN HOLLINGSWORTH

People Like Reading - and we like PLR! Thanks, Guys.

RONALD TURNBULL AKA TU863RO

Hello PLR

Thank you so much for making my writing life more rewarding - it's great to know my books are borrowed and enjoyed by readers all over the UK - and for making my financial life a little bit more secure, too!

All best wishes

MARGARET JAMES

Dear PLR, and everyone who works for you ...

Happy 40th Birthday!

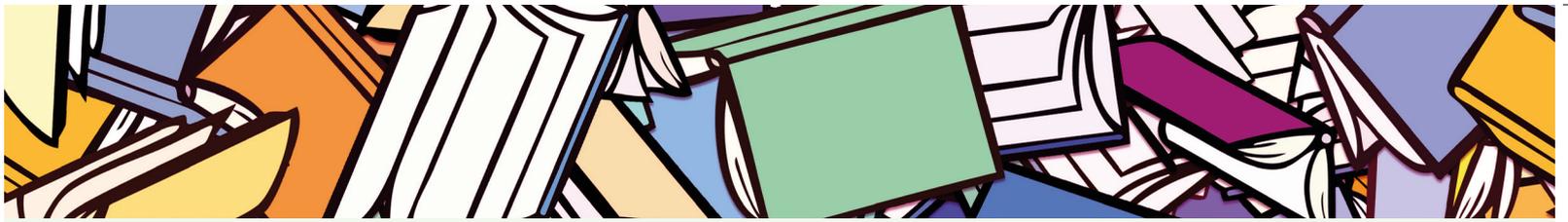
Still being a virile youngster, you have centuries and centuries of much-valued activity ahead of you, championing as you do the efforts of writers to receive due remuneration for their work!!

Thank you so much for what you are and what you do ...

MELANIE REINHART

PLR means a lot to me. Although the amounts I now get are modest they are none the less welcome, and perhaps most importantly, remind me that I am indeed an author and that people are still reading my ten books, so thank you, PLR, and happy 40th!

ANGELA KIRBY



It is always encouraging to receive my PLR payment each year and to know that children are still enjoying my books, some first published 30 years ago. Thank you to all those who fought for it - Very happy birthday.

PRUE THEOBALDS

I'd like to congratulate PLR on their 40th anniversary and send my personal thanks for the scheme which has been hugely important to me. I'm a children's author with many published books, but no best sellers, so PLR payments have been, and are, a very important part of my income. The regularity of the annual payment played an important role in my daring to ditch the day job and go full time as a writer.

Very best wishes,

JANE CLARKE

PLR making life better for libraries, readers and authors.

Thank you

SARAH AND AMY BEESON

Thanks, PLR, for your regular dependable funds in a life of financial uncertainty, for that fixed point in the year when bills can be paid and purchases planned. Without PLR payments in lean times there is no doubt I couldn't have sustained my career as an author.

ANGELA MCALLISTER

Happy birthday, PLR! This indie author is humbly grateful for received my first ever payment from PLR this time. Thank you so much!

ANNE L HARVEY

Happy Birthday! You have encouraged and supported me throughout my career. You make a difference to us all.

A.L.KENNEDY

I really appreciate PLR and wish more countries would adopt the practice! Happy 40th birthday and best wishes for many more years to come!

SANDRA SMITH

I love PLR! I've been lucky enough to be on the top rate for quite a while, which is a huge help financially. Much more, however, is being able to see in tangible form how many children have borrowed my books - it's real thrill to see the list every year! So Happy Birthday, PLR... and thank you, thank you, thank you.

VIVIAN FRENCH

Best wishes and heartfelt congratulations from a nonagenarian who for forty years has looked to PLR for considerable income, and to all concerned in this laudable organisation.

GWEN MOFFAT

Thank you, PLR, for that twice-yearly surprise. The money is always welcome, of course, but it's also gratifying to know that people are still using the libraries and are even reading my translations! It always feels like a little pat on the back.

MARGARET JULL COSTA

Wish PLR well - cannot wait for another ten years!

DANNY ROTH



For all you do; a huge, heartfelt thank you. For throwing us an annual lifeline in increasingly stormy seas; big love. For all the requisite data-gathering, borrowings-counting, the massive administrative sifting and collating; I am in awe and deeply in your debt. For everyone working for PLR; a huge round of applause, a standing ovation, please know how much we appreciate what you do.

LOVE FROM DEBI GLIORI

An author's life is rarely easy, and for many of us the financial rewards are very low, so having the reward of PLR at what is often the darkest and chilliest time of year is like being given a small Spring sparkler! PLR also shows us how our books are faring out there in the big, bad world. But in addition to that, the people who run the scheme are always such a delight to deal with, and I've had to do that a few times - forgotten password, or being unsure about an entry and the like.

So thank you, PLR, for all you do for us, and Happy Fortieth Anniversary!

ENID RICHEMONT

I was in right at the beginning and those yearly royalties continue to be the highlight of my long career.

Grateful thanks,

ALANNA KNIGHT

Happy Birthday... Those pennies add up...

PATRICK HUMPHRIES

Happy birthday PLR! So good to know that my books are being borrowed from libraries - and very nice to get a bit of cash too!

DAVID BARRIE

Once a book goes out of print -- and publishers seem to arrange to have them go OP very quickly -- my PLR payments are my only source of income from my books: every penny is precious and much appreciated.

PETER WINNINGTON (GPW)

February: a grey month where writing can be cold and awkward, and the brush won't move smoothly, from fear of tax just paid and the year ahead.

Then, joy, a message from PLR showing that somewhere unseen the books are borrowed and read.

i have been an author and illustrator for thirty-three years.

I have never requested any funding - not even for a degree.

Other branches of the arts receive so much more support.

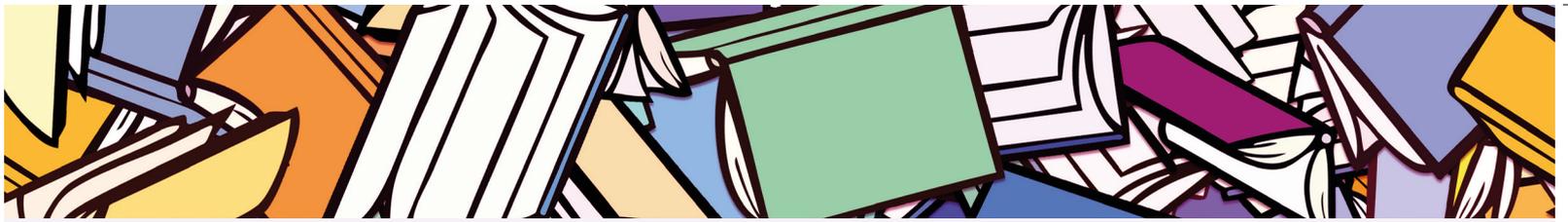
PLR is one of the few areas where authors and illustrators are recognised and rewarded for their role in providing something invaluable: the right to free reading in our libraries for everyone.

There have been years where my PLR payment has meant I can continue working. Thank you, PLR.

HELEN COOPER

This is an essential public recognition of the contribution and the rights of authors who supply and serve not only the public library service in the U.K. but the recognition and the world standing of British writers.

PROF ELINOR SHAFFER, FBA



Happy Birthday, PLR. Your annual payments have helped to keep thousands of authors afloat, and also given us a sense that we actually have readers out there. May a generous government continually swell the PLR fund and (while they're at it) make sure we have the public library service we need.

Best wishes

ANDREW TAYLOR

Almost from the beginning of stating my writing PLR payment has been a small but reliable income for me and greatly appreciated. Thank you.

GWEN KIRKWOOD

A very Happy Birthday to PLR! It has helped me for years not only to collect some money from my books but also allow me to see that my books are read in libraries. The work of all at PLR is highly appreciated. Thank you.

DESPINA KATSIREA

Congratulations to all the people involved with PLR. It has always been a valuable and valued service to all writers ... a delight when the cheques come in at a rather quiet time of year.

Long may you continue despite all the cutbacks!

Sincerely

CHRISSE LOVEDAY

When it started 40 years ago it was a barometer to prove how one's books were being read. My reduced PLR income is still welcome but should give us all cause to ponder the state of our library service and help do something about it.

JEAN CHAPMAN

Congratulations dear PLR! You speak up for the value of public libraries and of authors. We are inextricably bound and thank you for tying the knot!

BEVERLEY NAIDOO

Congratulations on 40 years of great service to authors! PLR makes a real difference to "small" writers like me.

LIZZIE BALLAGHER

Congratulations PLR!

All the Best for the next 40 years.

REGINALD MASSEY

PLR payments are simply one of the great joys of being a writer. Thank you, thank you and thank you again!

ANDY SEED

Thank you, PLR. Along with ALCS, your payments represent the only regular income I receive from my writing. Only small amounts, it's true, but they remind me I am a writer and that people read my work.

Happy Birthday!

All the best,

TISH FARRELL

HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY and many happy returns of the day.

with gratitude and best wishes,

LAMEES IBRAHIM



When you are quite old and haven't actually published anything for a while, it gives one a great fillip when one realises that people are still reading what you have created in the past.

Many thanks for all you do.

LEWIS ESSON

Thank you for running such an efficient PLR scheme. Libraries are a lifeline for many readers. And PKR provides a lifeline for many authors. Happy Birthday!

HELEN CAREY

It's not simply the payment, though that is obviously important, but the reassurance that our books are out there, in libraries, and that people are borrowing them. It's life-affirming for those who sit alone behind a keyboard day after day! Thank you PLR and Happy Birthday. Give yourselves a big party.

MICHAEL ALLABY

Happy 40th Anniversary. Enjoyed working with PLR.

PHILIP COOGAN

Even if it's a little less each year the PLR cheque is a bank booster and a morale booster... just picturing someone, somewhere, borrowing your book from their library.

JOY LARKCOM

Much needed, and much respected - keep up the good work.

Happy Birthday, PLR!

Yours sincerely,

FRANCIS WRIGHT

Happy 40th Birthday!

You have been a lifeline for me some years. And there are many who, like me, have known times when the financial struggle has stood in the way of the work, darkened the creative channels. In those moments, that cheque/bank transfer in February has been a godsend. Thank you. Long may you continue.

I want to thank you for the hard and dedicated work that goes into supporting us authors and I look forward to celebrating your longevity with you in September.

Cheers,

CAROL DRINKWATER

Very best wishes for its 40th birthday celebrations which are richly deserved.

It has been the very best of friends for authors and I am eternally grateful

ELIZABETH BUCHAN

As I haven't written many books, my PLR payments are small. But every time I receive it it's like a birthday present, which encourages me to keep writing. What I have to say needs to be read by the rest of the world.

C PURVES

Your work has been a real encouragement to me. It's good, not just to see how recent books are doing, but to have the evidence that books written some time ago are still being read.

Thank you,

FAY SAMPSON



I love being an author and wouldn't stop being a writer for the world. It's tough to make a living though. As a children's non-fiction author, I don't receive royalties, so the annual income I receive from PLR is invaluable. Thank you.

CATH SENKER

PLR has been a helpful support especially during the time when I was first starting out into the world of books for children as an illustrator.

I wish the service continued success for the sake of all who contribute to the library service through writing and illustrating for children.

JOLYNE KNOX

PLR is a late always very welcome Christmas present.

PETER UTTON

Well done and Happy Birthday, PLR - a beacon of support for an army of (on the whole) not overly well-paid creatives - and, along with the snowdrops, a very welcome bit of cheer every February!

With best wishes,

CHRIS BUTTERWORTH

Happy Birthday PLR - and long may you live to give such valuable help to authors!

ANN JUNGMAN

Happy 40th birthday PLR! May your good work encourage struggling authors.

STUART NIMMO

I sent out a clarion call to the audience at Bute Noir that had come to listen to Ann Cleeves, an author who champions libraries everywhere. My challenge to each and every one of them was to visit their libraries this week. I did and hope many of them did too.

Happy birthday, PLR

ALEX GRAY

Public Lending Right remains a wonderful idea and we are very grateful for every extra penny it brings us. Long may it and the libraries flourish...

ANN AND ANTHONY THWAITE

Happy birthday PLR people.

I remain very grateful for the PLR money I receive. So a big thank you to all who help in any way by administrating the system and by fighting for its survival.

I was in my early forties when my husband died leaving me with two early teenage sons. I'd had one book published and threw myself into writing more books, holding creative writing classes for Adult Education, school visits and so on, along with a part time job in a school. PLR was a 'Godsend' and added to my both my boys were able to go to university.

Yours gratefully,

MARGARET NASH

Happy anniversary PLR. The introduction of the PLR was an excellent attempt to stop the exploitation of writers and I feel it has been built on steadily ever since.

Yours

HILARY TOWNSEND



My PLR statement is a heartwarming reminder that access to knowledge, to literature, to culture, and to community is open to all. Libraries are gateways to new worlds and new lives and we would be so much poorer without them.

EMMA BYRNE

I remember clearly how delighted and surprised I was to discover that such a service existed, many years ago when I first signed up, and to find that it was so efficient — and am equally delighted that it's still going!

ANON

Happy birthday PLR! The money is hugely appreciated and also the reassurance that people are actually reading the books.

JUDY ALLEN

Happy birthday. Thanks for looking after authors all those years

MAHIR SALIH

Hooray for PLR, which is hard fought-for and precious to authors not only because income is often meagre in the profession, but because it proves that their creative work has value. It is also always encouraging to see numbers for library borrowings, and to know that your work is finding an audience beyond book sales.

NICOLETTE JONES

Happy 40th! We have always had to “count the pennies” and, as well as welcoming the extra few from the PLR, they confirms that our nooks are being borrowed, read, possibly even recommended to other library users – especially those who can't afford to buy new books.

All god wishes

VALENTINE FALLAN

Happy 40th PLR! Many happy returns - we depend on you and need you to live long and increase!

CHRISTINE RAAFAT

It is with my heart full of gratitude that I wish PLR a very happy 40th birthday. In a profession where earnings are irregular at best, PLR contributions aren't just helpful: they also make us feel valued and appreciated.

SIMONA C

Readers refer to a textbook I wrote more than a decade ago. PLR means that as long as the book is in use it generates some income for me.

ROBERT BILLING

'The chief glory for a nation lies in its authors'- But where would we be without the efforts of PLR on our behalf? So let's raise a glass or two to celebrate.

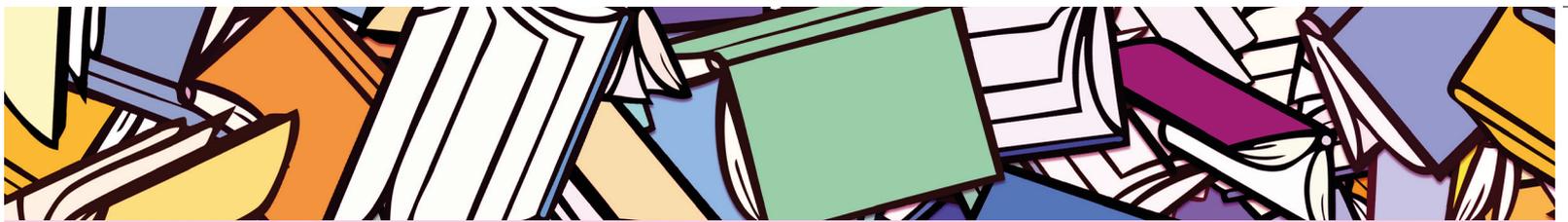
SURRY BURNS

Happy birthday PLR - what a wonderful scheme this is. Of course it's nice to get the money but it's much deeper than that - it connects us with our readers and with the great network of libraries, each one of which makes our country a more civilized place to live.

DEBORAH MOGGACH

Happy birthday, PLR! You and I have been together from the start. There were some years when you provided my largest single source of income. I would have struggled without you. Best wishes for the next forty!

JO BANNISTER



Thank you so much to all the people involved in PLR.

BARBARA ABBS

Dear PLR, happy birthday and thank you for keeping me and around 22,000 other writers, illustrators, photographers, translators and editors alive. Losing this income would endanger not only the content of our country's libraries, but the wider creative industries themselves. So it's much appreciated! Many happy returns,

BEE ROWLATT

Dear PLR

In an age which is increasingly difficult to authors, the contributions made by PLR to encourage writers to keep plugging away is most welcome and appreciated.

Happy birthday.

ROD ASHLEY

A birthday wish in gratitude for all the unexpected little presents over the years from PLR! They may be small, but they mean a lot.

JACKY COLLIS HARVEY

I am a woman born in 1954, who could only afford to become an author on retirement. Sadly, this did not coincide with getting a state pension, so every penny really does count. I'm so grateful for PLR.

SUZIE WILDE

Happy Birthday! It is always nice to receive a monetary reward from the PLR. It is like an annual birthday present and a thank you from all of those who use the library service

MARILYN RICE

Enormous gratitude to Maureen Duffy and Bridget Brophy who started it all 40 years ago. PLR seemed impossible but they did it!

FAY WELDON

The symbiotic relationship between authors and public libraries is one of the cornerstones of an educated society. Wishing PLR a glorious birthday and many happy returns.

RACHEL EDWARDS

So grateful for PLR and also for being reminded that people are still taking out my book and, hopefully, reading it.

BARRY WALSH

It's so good to know that not only are our books being borrowed in public libraries, but that authors are getting paid for this service. Well done PLR for working for authors to secure these funds - it means authors like me can contribute more books to those library shelves!

Very best wishes

AJ WAINES

Not only do I value my payment, but the opportunity to attend meetings and network is so useful. Happy birthday.

CHRISTINE WALLER

Many thanks for all you do for us. It is most appreciated. Best wishes for the future.

JOHN STOCKTON



Hurrah for PLR
And Libraries great and small
With books so wise and wonderful,
We need to cherish all.

M. VALENTINE WILLIAMS (MARY)

I remember being very disbelieving when another author friend told me I should sign up for PLR. I had no idea that I could get extra money for loans of my books. It was such a pleasant surprise when the money came through - as a struggling writer, that doesn't often happen. Happy birthday, PLR, and thank you for all you do for authors and the book industry.

TANIA O'DONNELL/AHSAN

My parents were both librarians: my father a branch librarian, my mother the children's librarian for a large London library. I have always supported libraries and the valuable work they do, so it is very pleasing that Public Lending Rights also supports authors and writers by giving a small amount each time a registered book is borrowed. Thank you!

GILL TENNANT

Forty years an honest library system, paying authors for their books being read. Unless so much civilised culture has been lost that reading, reference, and libraries themselves are regarded soon valueless, PLR payment should be maintained, at the very least, if not enhanced. However borrowed books are accessed, the experience is of increasing value, especially as online culture is reappraised. Recognition of this is morally obligatory for any politician. Help yourselves feel good: maintain PLR."

GUY DRYBURGH-SMITH

Thank you so much to everyone at PLR!

ANNA CLAYBOURNE

Happy Birthday PLR and thank you for all you do!

Having been registered with you for much of your glorious 40 years, I greatly value your work - not least in receiving much needed payment in the dead of winter to keep the wolf from the door. For many of us you help to keep that howling wolf at bay!

Many congratulations and may you keep up the great work for writers across the UK.

JOHN TOWNSEND

As an author whose work generates very little income, even the modest money from the Public Lending Right is a welcome annual bonus. Thank you PLR.

MIKE CHINN

Huge thanks to PLR for 40 years of sharing and caring. If a person doesn't read, they live their one life. If a person reads hundreds of books, they live hundreds of lives.

Grateful thanks,

ANGELA BARTON

PLR has been a lifeline to me at various times and I'm incredibly grateful for all the hard work that led to its being. Happy birthday and may you continue to help struggling authors for many years to come!

Huge thanks,

DEBBY HOLT

The payments I've received have meant a lot to me, over the years - but the acknowledgement they represent has meant as much, if not more. Even as some of my books go out of print, it is heartwarming to see the evidence that they are still being read and enjoyed. I am so grateful to the generous-spirited people who worked to make this happen - thank you!

JUDY HINDLEY



I'd like to express my sense that the existence of PLR completes a circle. It is part of the proof that library holdings and reading from libraries are real and essential: because this is true, they count towards authors' and translators' earnings, as anyone would imagine. This goes beyond mutual support; it is about mutual validation.

Many thanks to everyone involved. And happy fortieth! I'll see you there.

SOPHIE LEWIS

Me too. Me too
Cry the books

As they dance on the shelf
Or plop open as they fall to the floor

How happy we are that you read us
They cry to the passers-by

Happy birthday dear wonderful lenders of books

Everyone thanks you
And so do I

CAROLINE CARVER

Thank you PLR for that always very welcome little bank account boost - and for helping authors to feel their work is appreciated.

LUCINDA HAWKSLEY

Congratulations on surviving since the 70's in that far-off world of pre-online publishing. I thank you every spring for the lovely little treat PLR represents.

CASSANDRA CLARK

In the world of the internet where readers unjustly expect what they read to be free PLR is an important part of my income and a recognition that creatives need to be reimbursed for their work or else they will not be able to afford to produce it. I am pleased and proud to receive PLR.

RACHEL HORE

Thank you for your hard work on behalf of all authors. We like to know that people have borrowed our books from public libraries and we like to feel acknowledged for this contribution to our library system.

Happy 40th birthday!

GABRIELLE HATFIELD

My readership is small but, as a keen user of my own local community-run library, I like to encourage borrowers - so thank you PLR for an excellent job in rewarding authors for having their books on the library shelves.

SUSAN PARRY

Thank you PLR—a blessing to receive a small economic boost each year after sixty years of freelance writing and authorship.

RAYMOND LAMONT-BROWN

Congratulations to PLR!

I registered for the scheme when it was first introduced and it still gives me a thrill to think that I should receive a modest fee whenever my books have been borrowed from a public library. The sums are very small in my case but the principle of it is tremendously important; it will have cheered and encouraged so many writers over the last 40 years. Long may it continue.

PENELOPE BYRDE

PLR is so encouraging, so important and so very necessary.

Thank you!

GWEN GRANT



Please convey my heartiest congratulations to PLR for their 40th birthday. I've found them friendly, helpful and reliable to deal with over a number of years so they deserve a card from your society.

VERA L MELLOR

Many happy returns indeed! 40 years old!

You do an amazing, largely unsung job, benefitting many, many people.

Keep it up!

Best wishes

JOHN MASSEY STEWART

Hurrah for PLR. And a thousand & more thanks to Maureen Duffy and her fellow campaigners.

RACHEL ANDERSON

PLR was only a dream when I published my first novel in 1969. A decade later it became a right and gave us writers the double pleasure of much needed payment (which, despite being a right, always came as a joyful

surprise) and useful indications of the progress of our books, e-books, e-audio books etc. Many congratulations to all who made it happen and those who ran and run it.

RACHEL BILLINGTON

Happy 40th Birthday and Three Cheers for PLR to authors! Thank you so much for this important work you do on our behalf. The welcome payment I receive partly enables me to attend a weekend writing conference here in Scotland each year.

ROSEMARY GEMMELL

Dear Friends at PLR,

Back in the 1980s we produced our very first picture book, at the kitchen table of our tiny terraced house, surrounded by the chaos of life with three young children. Now those very grown up children have babies of their own, and Catherine and I have produced well over 200 books spanning every age and genre, from baby-board-books to my brand new venture into adult crime. The publishing world has experienced many seismic changes, but the one stable factor has been the regular payments from PLR, which have indescribably important to us. Alongside the very welcome payment, it has been incredibly comforting to know that our books have been borrowed so many times from libraries up and down the country, and we have built genuine friendships within the library community. So a huge THANK YOU from two very grateful author/illustrators for the fabulous work you do for authors, readers and the world of books and literacy.

Libraries are lovely - let's not ever lose them!

With love from,

LAURENCE AND CATHERINE ANHOLT

Happy Birthday PLR!

Congratulations on 40 years of supporting authors by recognising the contribution that books make to society.

May PLR continue to assist writers for at least another 40 years and may libraries, through which so many readers and writers get to know each other, become once again the valued spaces in the community that they used to be.

Thank you PLR,

With kind regards,

BEN BOX



Not only do PLR payments help authors to keep going in this ever worse-paid and insecure profession, but the figures are annual proof that, even years after we wrote them, our books are wanted and read.

EMMA DARWIN

Most writers earn less than a living wage, and have to supplement their earnings by doing other jobs. They may earn relatively little but they provide the public, and in particular the libraries, with an ongoing source of pleasure. I well remember walking three and a half miles down to what was then my 'local' library and borrowing books on a daily basis when I was a child. PLR, although scarcely remunerative for any except best-selling authors, nevertheless provides a very useful source of income, and a recognition of the service that we provide.

Yours

BRIAN MCAVERA

Happy birthday, PLR - turns out we're the same age! An absolutely brilliant initiative that supports libraries, authors and readers. The annual PLR royalty statement is always a welcome bonus for authors, but what I particularly like is seeing how many times my books have been borrowed throughout the UK. Many happy returns!

MASON CROSS

Happy birthday PLR - Every February I welcome the PLR payment, the help it gives is marvellous and the borrowing information so useful. Long may PLR and our fantastic Library system live on!

JANET LAURENCE

Receiving my annual PLR payment reminds me that I am still a working author that people want to read. This gives great encouragement to writers working in comparative isolation. So thank you, PLR!

NICHOLA FLETCHER, MBE

When I applied for the Public Lending Right, I was living near Stockton on Tees...so took my application to the office in person, rather than send it by post or email. As I walked to the Reception desk, on the walls were letters and thank you cards from authors and illustrators (I particularly remember Shirley Hughes's cards), and I felt that these enhanced the importance of PLR. On this Ruby Anniversary, Thank you all.

VIN ARTHEY

What would we do without you?

FELICITY FAIR THOMPSON

Happy 40th Birthday, indeed, PLR! The establishment of the Public Lending Rights scheme is very much more than the sum of its parts. While certain authors have received significant added income, it is as a public declaration of the importance of writers generally to the national wellbeing that PLR is at its most important, and more now than when it was instituted, since the loss of the net book agreement and the comparative loss in income for authors with the introduction of discounting, digital piracy etc, and other changes in publishing and marketing of books progressively undermines writers' economic status. We are deeply thankful for PLR, but hope that government will continue recognise the importance of this creative industry and reward it accordingly.

DAVID MCDOWALL

I loved my local library as a child; it was a magical doorway to unlimited adventure. To see my books in libraries now is an utter joy. My PLR payments mean I can keep writing and doing what I love, helping to keep that magical doorway open.

Happy 40th birthday!

LOU TRELEAVEN



PLR's annual payment feels like a gift in the dreary, over-spent days after Christmas. But it's not just the money that cheers me. I get a huge boost from knowing that people are actually choosing my books off the library shelves, and that librarians notice and care.

Thank you, PLR!

ELIZABETH LAIRD

As the author of fairly highly-priced books, published by a small publisher, which don't sell in large numbers to individual buyers, PLR has been a boon to me, paying me more than I receive in royalties. I am very grateful for the remuneration I receive in this way, especially as literary biography is an expensive occupation!

VIVIEN WHELPTON

Since I began my career in 1980, authors' incomes have been gradually eroded by the collapse of the net book agreement, discount selling, the huge reduction of independent bookshops, and many other factors. There may be weeping in April and October, but joy comes in January, with the announcement of PLR earnings; in my case usually keeping abreast the tax bill.

Thank you to all who brought about and maintain PLR, and to all those readers who borrow our books. God bless.

JOYCE DUNBAR

I don't get so much from PLR, having just the one Scottish children's book published, but even a little is great because I know that children have chosen the book in a library. (I do get more through ALCS which always amazes and delights me). I remember how much my mother Eileen Jackson admired the writers who spent valuable time in their careers, fighting to establish the PLR system. She wrote 20 novels and earned well for an author (!) but wasn't in the big time. The PLR income was a great boost for her.

With very best wishes,

DEBBIE JACKSON

If you're a freelance writer, every little helps. I greatly appreciate PLR.

WENDY COPE

I'm a poet and a children's author. As poet I earn very little, as a children's author it remains a struggle to earn a living, the more so as I'm now 77. Whatever PLR brings in is a very valued source of income for which I'm very grateful.

With best wishes,

DIANA HENDRY

Hi PLR and a very Happy Birthday. You do fabulous work and the revenue you send on to me is a big part of my earnings. Keep up the good work.

GILLIAN OGILVIE

Happy 40th Birthday, PLR! What a civilised bit of legislation you are, all the more so now in this turbulent time. Long may you last...

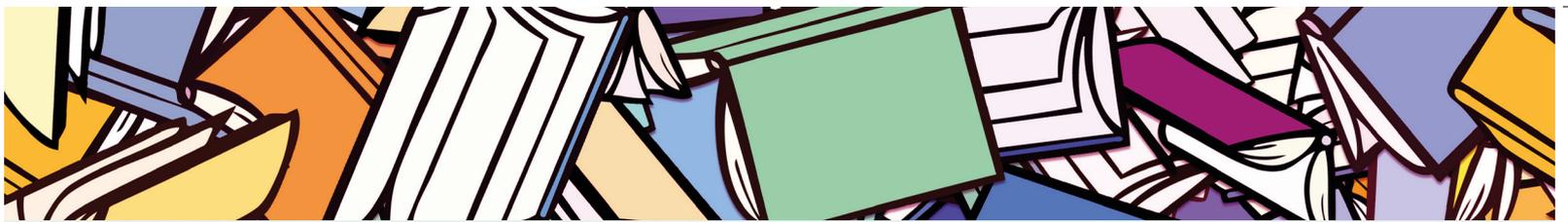
TRACY CHEVALIER

Libraries and public lending organisations are such a valuable platform for authors. While authors might only receive a few pence every time their book is borrowed, each time it is, it raises the author's profile and gives their work another platform.

SHEILA JOHNSON

Many Happy Returns on your 40th birthday! I am a new author - my first children's book was published in 2016 - and I'm fast learning how financially precarious the writing life is, so to receive payments from PLR provides a very welcome boost, besides telling me that my books are being borrowed and read by young people across the country.

ALLY SHERRICK



When car hire is free of charge, when HSS lends out tools for nothing, when landlords charge no rent, when cinemas cost nothing, when authors qualify automatically for the living wage... there may be a case for questioning PLR. In the meantime, it is the best we have and should continue to develop. Many happy returns.

PAUL BEARDMORE

Congratulations to the PLR on its 40th Birthday! The staff do a great job and I'm grateful, not just for the revenue, but for the fact PLR shows my books are out there and being read by children long after publication!

SUSAN QUINN

Thank you, PLR! It has been wonderful to see so many people learning from my books using public libraries. Advances and royalties for educational and technical titles are not enough to live on, so PLR makes an important contribution and helps to make the writing and updating of books viable for their authors.

SEAN MCMANUS

Thank you for the work you have done over the past 40 years to support authors - particularly as it's in a way which encourages authors to support libraries, a vital partnership in this ever-changing world of books.

ANNE STRATHIE

Happy 40th Birthday to the PLR - the gift that keeps giving both to readers and authors!

CHRIS BRADFORD

Many, many happy returns!

CAROLYN BECKINGHAM

Happy 40th birthday and a big thank you, PLR!

With so much focus commercially on what's 'new', the income you provide is a reminder of the importance of libraries where any reader can access our books, including our backlists. You acknowledge us, the creators of books. This just principle was hard won and, as with all matters of justice, cannot be taken for granted. Many more happy birthdays, PLR!

BEVERLEY NAIDOO

Dear PLR, as a thriller writer not only do you give me a much-needed income, but you also give me confidence when I see just how many books of mine are borrowed each year. You're brilliant. Thank you!

CAROLINE CARVER

Dear PLR,

I can't tell you how important you are to me. This is not an official birthday message yet, as I am going away for a few days and intend to make you a special drawing - or at least a drawing of some kind -to mark your fortieth. And yes, I wasn't an author then, but was around when you were born!

It may sound sad to some, but the annual PLR statement is the highlight of the year for many of us and one of the main reasons for this is not only that you painstakingly collect and distribute much needed cash, but that you provide splendidly clear statements that allow us to see how many people borrowed our books.

Long live libraries, long live PLR!

You are a lifeline to authors and illustrators and so much appreciated by us all. Many, many thanks for all you do and happiest of birthdays.

With the warmest of wishes,

ROS ASQUITH

Sincere thanks for the payments - a lifeline on many occasions!

NICKY HAYES



Happy birthday to PLR! Thanks for all the support for authors. Libraries are amazing and PLR makes them even better!

All the best,

MATTHEW HARFFY

Happy Birthday, PLR!

You do wonderful, wonderful work and as a very mid-list author, I am extraordinarily grateful to you.

Lots of love,

JAN JONES

Happy Birthday PLR,

You are doing a fantastic job for me and many others.

PHIL ROWLANDS

I love the PLR system! We authors encourage library use, and it is lovely - and fair - that there is some remuneration to us when people borrow rather than buy our books. Keep up the super work!

MARY MURPHY

Dear PLR, what a momentous occasion! Congratulations on your BIG birthday! PLR has meant so much to authors, especially coming soon after the expenditures of Christmas! May you continue another 40, if not 400 years! (And all our books too!)

Biggest Bestest Birthday Wishes from

JEREMY STRONG

Thank you so much for looking after my PLR interests and those of all the authors registered with you. Your work on our behalf is greatly appreciated.

Best wishes to all of you.

TRISH COLTON

Happy birthday PLR - the Pretty Lovely Rewards people.

RONALD TURNBULL

Dear Public Lending Rights, on your 40th Birthday,

Once upon a time some of our long distance ancestors had a great idea, to tell a story! One great storytelling idea was to tell stories by making pictures on cave walls. Another great storytelling idea was to tell stories verbally, another great idea was to sing stories, to dance stories, eventually to put stories onto paper and then to make the paper move and make the stories moving into moving image stories then to films and so stories and storytelling and ideas around literary creativity evolved and live on.

40 years ago someone had another great idea, to support libraries and authors in sharing their hard work and keeping stories and other books freely available for all through collective responsibility and economic distribution, thus Public Lending Rights was born.

A very Happy birthday to you Public Lending Rights

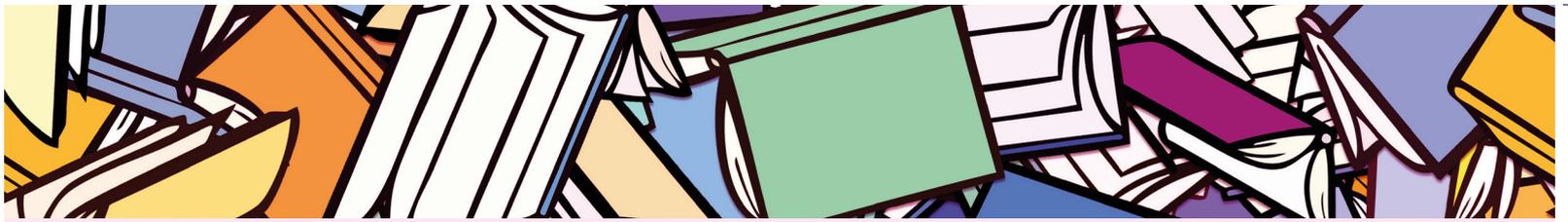
With warmest good wishes

ANNA GUREVITCH

Thank you.

PLR is integral to fair payment for authors.

BELINDA WHITWORTH



Having served on the Advisory committee, I am a huge supporter of PLR and all it does for authors.

GILLIAN MCCLURE

I do not benefit significantly from PLR because my work is mainly accessed by higher education libraries, so I get nothing beyond the royalty on the original sale. However, I am a tremendous fan of PLR notwithstanding because it stands as a practical statement of fairness to authors who work so hard but generally obtain so little reward. So Happy Birthday!

DAVID MCDOWALL

PLR was hugely helpful to me in the early days of my writing career when I was writing historical sagas. I can honestly say that the payments I received made up a significant amount of my income and so helped me continue as a writer. It's a wonderful system which supports writers and encourages library lending by having these books available.

Congratulations on 40 years of PLR and many thanks!

JANET MACLEOD TROTTER

Happy Birthday and what would we do without you.

Wishing you many birthdays to come.

MIKO

Congratulations PLR! Many Happy Returns!

EDWARD MILNER

Happy 40th, PLR!
You're my Library Income star.
Authors need each precious penny.
Lots of authors don't earn many.

And so I send you grateful thanks
for feeding authors' piggy banks.
To know you're there, how glad we are.
Happy Birthday, PLR!

(for the record, this was written
by your poet, Tony Mitton)

TONY MITTON

Receiving my PLR statement brings me such joy - not for the financial element (although that's certainly very welcome), but for the fact that it allows me to see my "hidden readers"; to go beyond sales figures and find out how many times a year my books have been read and how many lives they have touched. Thanks to PLR, I know I have thousands more readers than I would have guessed, and that feels wonderful. May it - and libraries - continue for another 40 years!

EMMA BAMFORD

Thank goodness for PLR! As royalties drop over the years PLR continues to help me celebrate being published. And with every new book out there comes a little boost!

CINDY JEFFERIES/CYNTHIA JEFFERIES

Happy birthday PLR! Although I don't benefit from you personally, I support you wholeheartedly, especially since I live in a borough that has reduced library stock and effectively reduced independent access to libraries for children under the age of 16, which must have an effect on book borrowing. We're fighting to have that situation reversed, and in the meantime wish you healthy future.

BARBARA HORN JACOBSON



Thank you PLR! The money is always a bonus, sometimes more than my royalties, but knowing a child went to the library and chose one of my books to take home just makes my heart sing!

Happy Birthday!

KARIN CELESTINE

Thank you, PLR. Not just for the income, for the recognition of the value of all writers and the contribution they make to the world

DYAN SHELDON

Happy Birthday PLR! And thank you for all your hard work – it is much appreciated. As a “mid-list” novelist I truly benefit from my books being borrowed from libraries. With the very best of luck, and again many thanks for your vigilance and persistence.

SUZETTE A. HILL

Great work and keep on fighting for authors' rights. It's a continuous process and we only lose when we stop!

Best wishes

HELEN SHAY

Thank you, PLR, for your continued support for authors! Many of my books go directly into schools and libraries, so the PLR I get from them is really valuable - and it's so interesting to see which of my books are the most popular, even after they have gone out of print! Many, many thanks, and long may you continue!

LYNNE BENTON

Happy birthday PLR! You are very welcome if modest addition to an author's meagre earnings.

NIGEL RODGERS

We marched for PLR— and won!

PAUL LEVY, PHD, FRSL

Just knowing that people are interested enough in my books to borrow them from the library gives me a glow, and helping to keep libraries healthy and vibrant also makes me feel good. Happy Birthday!

RUTH BROOKS

The very best wishes, and congratulations for the 40 years great work of PLR.

A much needed, appreciated, and excellent service for authors of all genres.

Well done, and keep up the good work for the next decades.

DESPINA KATSIREA

Happy Birthday, and sincere good wishes for the future.

Best wishes

PAT WALKER

Heartfelt appreciation to the people who fought for PLR and those who keep it working so well.

It's not the size of the fee that matters, so much as the justice and recognition it represents.

Thank you all.

BENITA SMITH

Thank you for making me feel as if my work is valued and respected.

Best wishes for the next 40 years.

BETH WEBB



Congratulations to PLR for their 40th birthday! They are an excellent organisation who always go that extra mile to assist authors who contact them with any queries.

Kind regards

VL MELLOR

Happy Birthday, PLR - like most writers, I owe a huge debt to my local library - I can still remember the excitement of the weekly visit, choosing a new book and earmarking the one's I had to leave behind for another week...

The Library remains a central part of our community - like all good things in life, getting even better with age - here's to another forty!

FAITH HOGAN

Many thanks and congratulations for 40 years. Sometimes it is my only income, apart from the State OAP Pension. However, every little helps and, as I am known as 'a good library read', it is very welcome, and means I can buy a better Christmas or birthday gift for my grandchildren. So, my sincere thanks to all the people who have and are still working hard for us.

Sincerely,

BARBARA MURPHY

It still needs emphasising in this country that authors are not leisured dilettantes doing what they do for pin-money. PLR is another essential weapon in the fight to secure correct earnings from their endeavours.

Yours Sincerely,

GORDON BEAMISH

Happy Birthday to PLR, and warm thanks for helping so many authors along the writing path.

When you know there is support along the route, a difficult journey becomes an adventure.

SEAN TAYLOR

PLR was a life-saver at the beginning of my writing career - and has been a delight ever since. Happy 40th PLR! Long may you last...

MIRIAM MOSS

I wanted to express my very best wishes for the 40th Birthday of the wonderful PLR scheme. And to express my thanks to The Society of Authors who were so instrumental in the setting up of The Public Lending Right Act in 1979.

Countless authors have relied on their PLR payments while building careers as successful writers, myself included. To date every author registered with the scheme, earns 8 pence for each of their books borrowed from Libraries in England and Ireland. It is a thrill each year to see my list of titles and the number of loans set against each book. All those children and adults enjoying my books - it is both humbling and a great source of pride.

I'm a life-long user and supporter of public libraries and feel privileged to be fostering an enthusiasm for books and reading, especially in the young.

May the PLR impetus spread all around the world, and writers everywhere benefit.

With all best wishes and kind regards,

SUE BENTLEY



THE
SOCIETY OF
AUTHORS