Educational Lending Right (ELR) is an Australian cultural program administered by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA).

ELR has two objectives:
- to make payments to Australian creators and publishers on the basis that income is lost from the availability of their books for loan in educational libraries, i.e. school, TAFE and university libraries*, and
- to support the enrichment of Australian culture by encouraging the growth and development of Australian writing and publishing.

*TAFE and university libraries are surveyed separately.

THE 2008-09 SURVEY

The methodology used for the 2008-09 survey involved a rigorous statistical survey.

A representative sample of schools was surveyed to identify their holdings in relation to a list of book titles supplied by DEWHA. Schools were selected on the basis of state or territory, level (primary, secondary, combined), sector (government, independent, Catholic), region (urban/rural) and then proportionally according to enrolment. In addition, the sample was restricted to schools with an enrolment of 100 or more students and which used one of the specified library management systems.

The methodology used for the 2008-09 survey closely followed the model developed for the 2001-02 survey and used in subsequent surveys.

The ELR survey again produced an excellent participation rate from schools and all target response rates for individual strata were met. The efforts put into marketing and promotion of the survey, the communication strategy and telephone campaign contributed to the high response rate from schools.

The independent statistician’s report states that the results of the ELR 2008-09 School Library Survey reflect accurate estimates of the numbers of copies of eligible titles held in school libraries nationally.

Recommendations

The final report on the 2008-09 survey submitted to DEWHA included the following recommendations:

- That the results from the ELR 2008-09 School Library Survey be used as the basis for ELR payments for the 2008-09 program, and
- That the methodology adopted for the ELR 2008-09 survey be used for any future surveys.

In June 2009, ELR made payments totalling $10.709 million to 10,385 Australian creators and 394 Australian publishers whose books are held in educational libraries.

Curriculum Corporation thanks all who participated in the Educational Lending Right 2008-09 School Library Survey. Your support for the growth and development of Australian writing and publishing is gratefully acknowledged.

ELR - Encouraging the growth of Australian writing and publishing