Educational Lending Right

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

- to make payments to Australian creators (authors, illustrators, translators, compilers and editors) and publishers on the basis that income is lost from the availability of their books in educational lending libraries; and
- to support the enrichment of Australian culture by encouraging the growth and development of Australian writing and publishing.

ELR complements the Public Lending Right (PLR) program for books held in public lending libraries.

Payments to Australian creators

In October 2007, the Australian Government announced that it will provide ongoing funding for the ELR scheme, which began in 2000. ELR payments are based on estimates of the number of copies of specific titles held in Australian educational libraries. These estimates are obtained from the results of annual surveys of the holdings of selected school, TAFE and university libraries*. Works eligible for ELR payments range from study guides, readers and fiction to autobiographies and non-fiction. In June 2010, ELR made payments totalling $10.8 million to 10,492 Australian creators and 384 Australian publishers whose books are held in educational libraries.

* TAFE and university libraries are surveyed separately.

How can my school be involved in the survey?

Each year, a representative sample of schools is invited to participate in the ELR school library survey. Schools must meet specified criteria based on school size, sector and location and the library automation system used. More than 600 schools Australia-wide are approached in October to take part in the survey. It is intended that each year a different sample of schools will be used. Schools selected to participate will receive a package of information from Education Services Australia at the start of Term 4.

How does the school library survey work?

The ELR survey software has been developed in collaboration with library software vendors and is designed to run in the school library automation system. The survey software counts the number of copies of selected book titles held in the school library catalogue. The privacy and confidentiality of schools’ data and records are rigorously maintained.

ELR - Encouraging the growth of Australian writing and publishing