Educational Lending Right (ELR) is an Australian cultural program administered by the Ministry for the Arts, Attorney-General's Department.

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*
- 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 2013-14 survey

The methodology used for the 2013-14 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 the Ministry for the Arts, Attorney-General's Department. 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 2013-14 survey closely followed the model developed for the 2001-02 survey and used in subsequent surveys.

The independent statistician’s report states that the results of the ELR 2013-14 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 2013-14 survey submitted to Ministry for the Arts, Attorney-General's Department included the following recommendations:

- that the results from the ELR 2013-14 School Library Survey be used as the basis for ELR payments for the 2013-14 program
- that the methodology adopted for the ELR 2013-14 survey be used for any future surveys.

In June 2014, ELR made payments totalling $11.334 million to 9982 Australian book creators and 366 publishers whose books are held in educational libraries.

Education Services Australia thanks all who participated in the Educational Lending Right 2013-14 School Library Survey. Your support for the growth and development of Australian writing and publishing is gratefully acknowledged.