

Public Lending Right

In our own field (Public Lending Right) the EU's introduction of the Lending Right Directive in 1992 requiring all member states to set up PLR systems has been hugely influential in ensuring that authors across the EU receive payment for the lending out of their works by public libraries. British authors have received PLR payments for loans of their books from UK public libraries since 1979 but because of the EU Directive are now receiving payments from 9 other EU countries and this has brought in £8 million in recent years. The EU involvement provides protection for authors in the PLR arena and across the whole copyright sector.

The EU has implemented policies in relation to requiring member states to establish PLR systems. It now needs to do more to ensure compliance. There remain some countries which have not fully implemented the Lending Right Directive.

Better to direct funding at EU level to ensure it is applied to all member states.

Not noticed any change in EU activity or emphasis since the 2009 Treaty of Lisbon.

Other competences: Copyright and libraries.

International Bodies or Arrangements? International copyright agreements.

How could the EU co-ordinate its activity in these areas of competence to greater effect? By taking the initiative and holding meetings bringing together key people from each member state.