



protecting
and promoting
authors' rights

ALCS

COPYRIGHT MATTERS: THE GLOBAL PRESSURE FOR MORE COPYRIGHT EXCEPTIONS

The situation for authors in the UK in 2016

Presented by:

Nicola Solomon, Chief Executive, Society of Authors

16 June 2016



The SoA

- The SoA protects the rights and furthers the interests of all types of writers
- A membership organisation representing over 9,500 professional writers from all sectors and genres

I #NeedTheSoA cos I'm new to this. And scared. And confused. And u put your arm around me and said everything will be fine.

@callaghansstuff

Copyright Threats

Could it be true that laws designed more than three centuries ago, with the express purpose of creating economic incentives for innovation by protecting creators' rights, are today obstructing innovation and economic growth? The short answer is: yes.

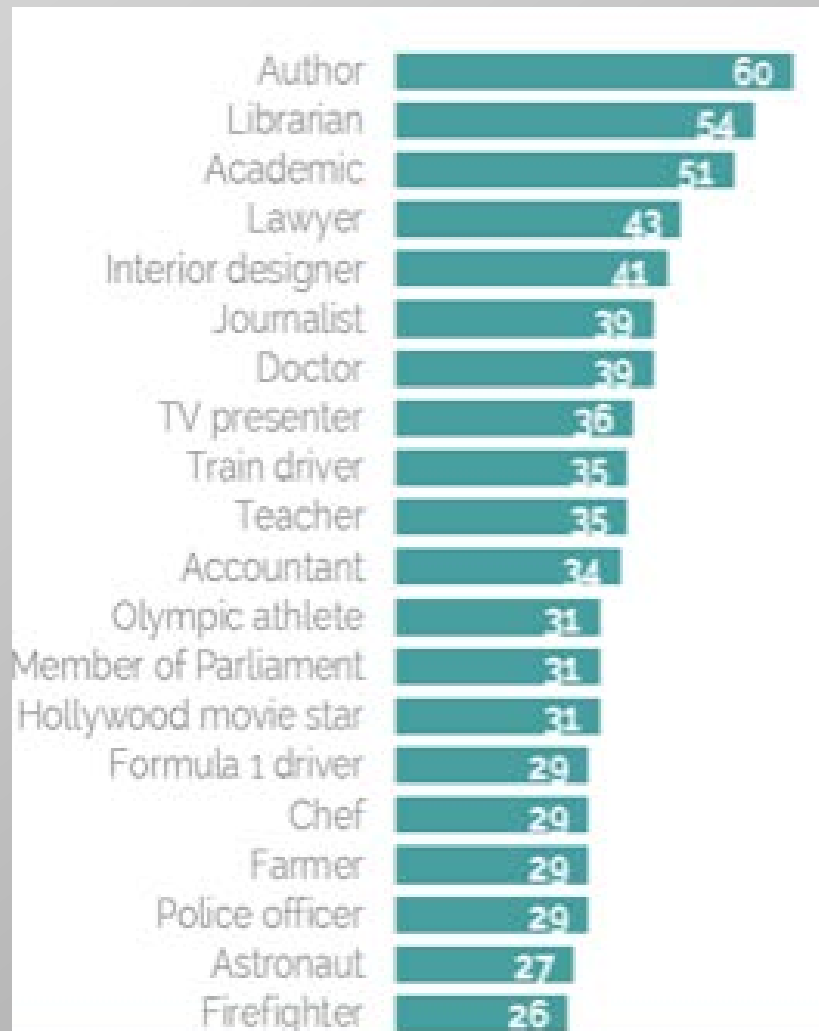
Professor Hargreaves, 2011

An outdated law that puts a cap on creativity... for too long, copyright laws have been manipulated as a cheap way of making money

Daily Telegraph, 2011

The most desired jobs in Britain

% who say they would like to do each of the following for a living:




Source: YouGov March 2015

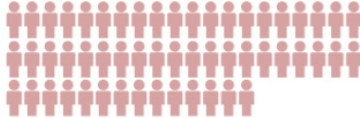
Overview of the British book market:

- Sales: 3.314 billion pounds (2015)
- Publishers: 2,270 (2015)
- Titles/year: 200,330 (2014)
- Bookshops: 1,075 (2015)

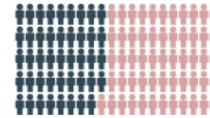
ALCS survey: who took part?

Ages of participants

17% Age 44 or under


54% Age 45-64


29% Age 65 or over

44%



Women

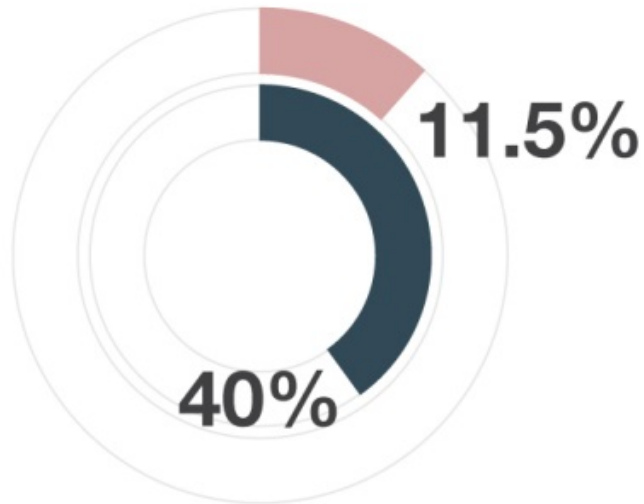
A slightly lower number of women completed the questionnaire

2500 Participants

Professional authors: People who dedicate the majority of their time to the craft

All writers: Where this wider group of writers are referred to, the amount of time spent writing isn't taken into account, so this group may include occasional and part time as well as full time writers.

The professional author



Earning a living solely from writing



2005 - 40% of professional authors earned their income solely from writing

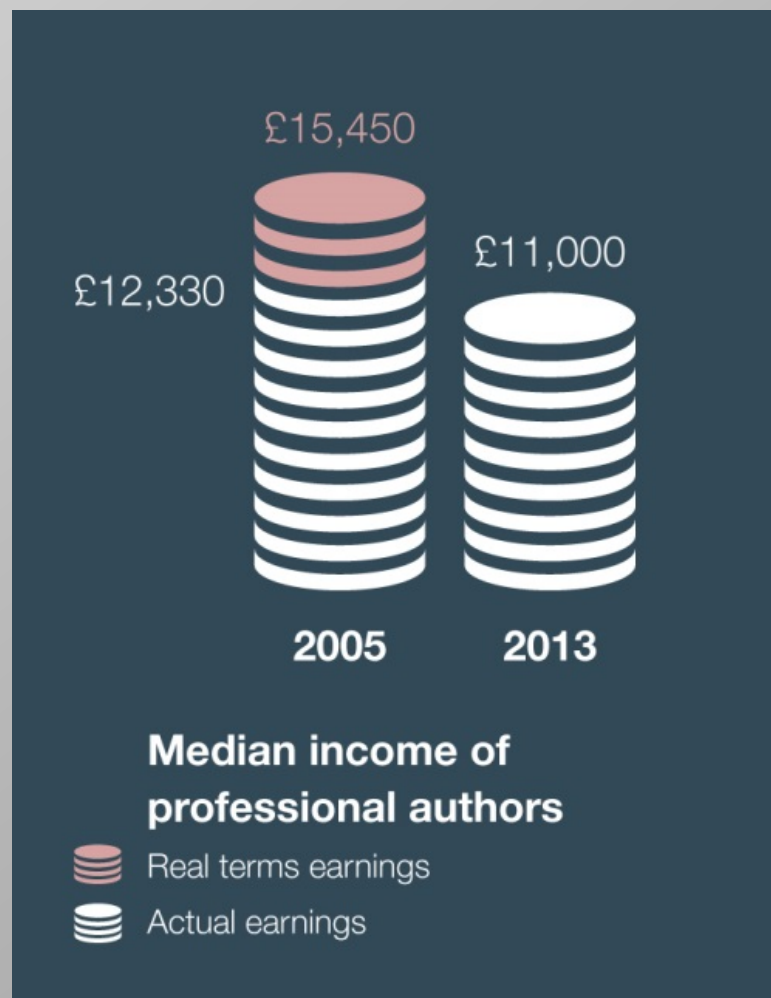


2013 - 11.5% of professional authors earn their income solely from writing

- In 2005 40% of authors earned their income solely from writing
- By 2013 this had dropped to just 11.5%

The professional author

- The typical (median) incomes of professional authors have dropped from £12,300 (\$18,382) per annum to £11,000 (\$16,440)
- This is a drop in real terms of 29% since 2005

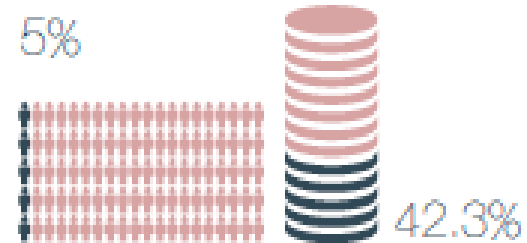


Income: highs and lows

Income: highs and lows

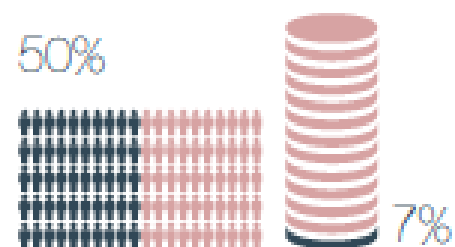
A small majority are doing very well -

The top 5% earned 42.3% of all the money earned by professional authors in this survey.



The larger majority aren't doing very well -

The bottom 50% (earning £10,432 or less) **earn only 7%** of all the money earned by all writers cumulatively.



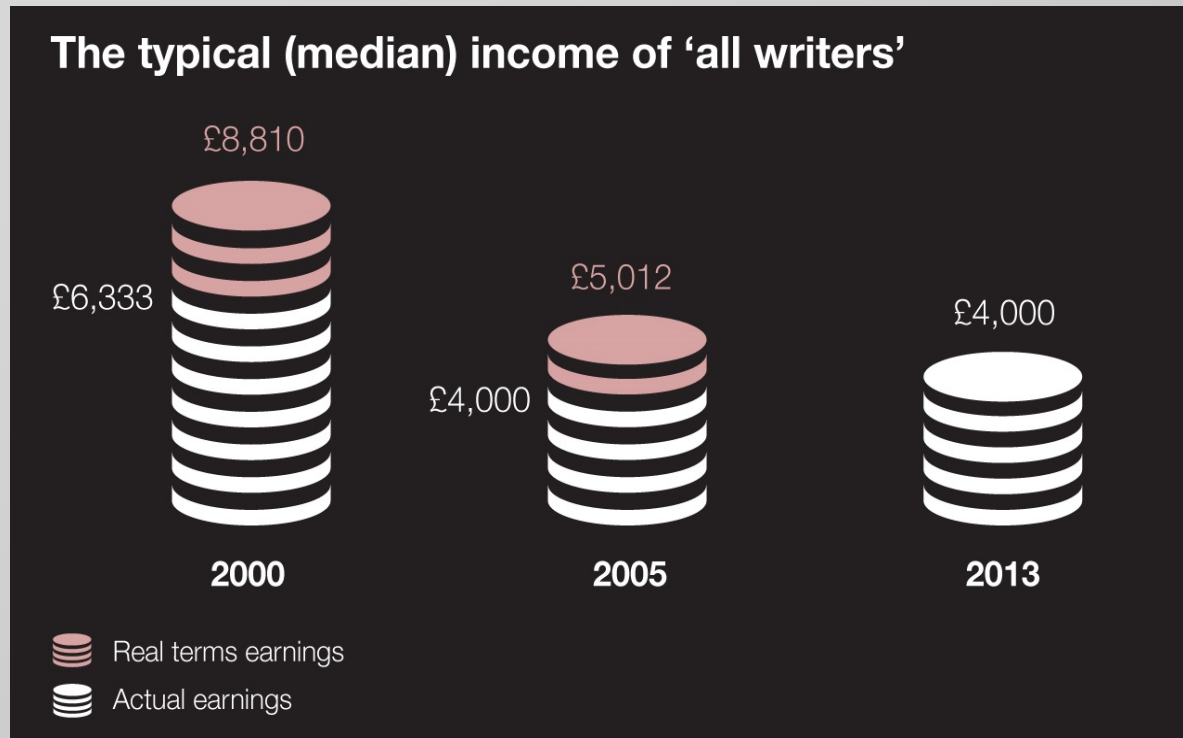
Nearly 90% need to earn money from sources other than writing.

The professional author

- Figures indicate that single people living in the UK need to earn at least £16,860 (\$25,200) to achieve a Minimum Income Standard (MIS) of living
- The typical professional author falls way below that standard



The bigger picture – all writers



These graphs show the median earnings of all writers in 2000, 2005 and 2013

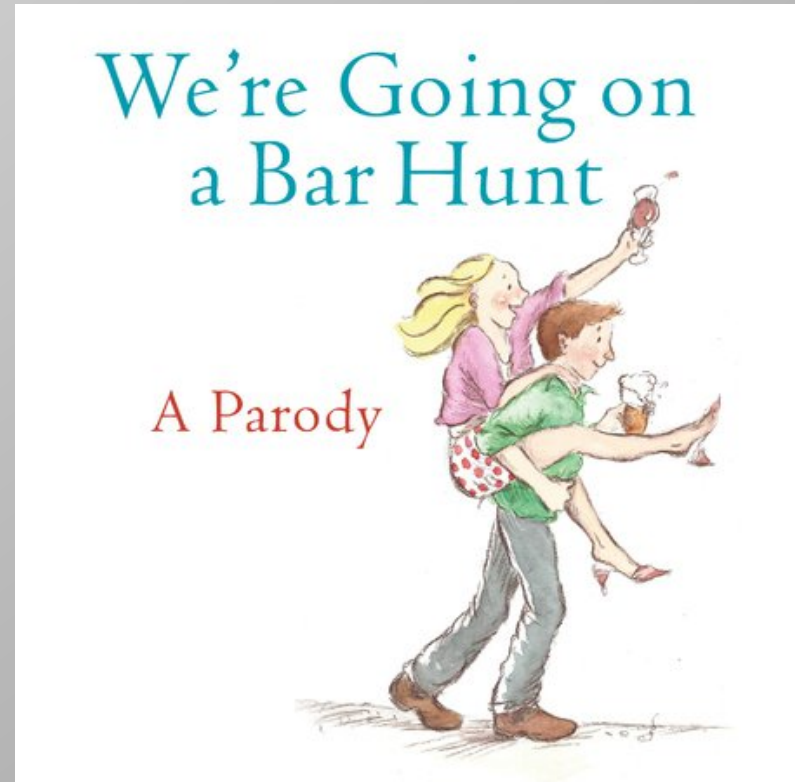
- The figures show a drop in both absolute and *real terms* since 2000 to just £4000 (\$5,978)
- The typical incomes have dropped in *real terms* by 28% since 2000 and 19% since 2005

Adapt and survive

- Writers need to receive fair compensation for their work
- This means clear, fair contracts with equitable terms and a copyright regime that supports creators and their ability to earn a living from their creativity

Copyright Changes and What They Mean in Practice

- Orphan Works
 - Spare Rib
- Parody
(and fair dealing)



Current Concerns

- PLR and ebooks
- Educational exceptions
- Snippets



Vigilance and Solidarity

