

Statement: BCC backs authors over Open Library violations

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The British Copyright Council (BCC) expresses its support for writers' groups, led in the UK by the [Society of Authors](#), in their condemnation of the [Internet Archive's Open Library](#) for making and lending unauthorised scans of physical books.

The SoA has launched a petition demanding that the Open Library — which describes the activity as “controlled digital lending” and claims it is allowed under US law — immediately stops making the copies available to UK users. The [International Authors Forum](#), the US Authors' Guild, the [Writers' Union of Canada](#) and the [Australian Society of Authors](#), have also denounced the operation, which sees entire books digitised and shared without permission or payment to the authors.

The [Authors Guild](#) points to the Open Library's reliance on “a faulty legal argument that has already been rejected by the US courts”, while in the UK the unauthorised copying and subsequent distribution of in-copyright works is manifestly unlawful. Furthermore, in Britain and many other countries around the world, authors are entitled to a Public Lending Right payment for the free public use of their works in libraries.

The BCC endorses calls to halt the Open Library's flagrant disregard for copyright that threatens to destroy the market for ebooks along with the livelihoods of the authors who create them for everyone's enjoyment.

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