

FAQs on the Readers Groups Database

1. Question: Reading Group information already appears on our local authority website. Why do we have to duplicate it and collect the information again for a national site?

Answer: It's a shame that there didn't seem to be a way of using the data already collected for local authority websites but because of data protection laws and the multiple uses we wanted to make of the data we needed to collect it again making these multiple uses explicit to users:

- on a national website to allow the public to search for groups by postcode;
- for PR and advocacy for libraries – so we can say there are x readers groups in Y area or there are Z readers groups for visually impaired people in the country, etc, (and we can offer this info on a regional basis for regions);
- to give readers groups opportunities from broadcasters and publishers - e.g. to receive free proof copies of books, or to be part of current initiatives such as Page Turners, Richard and Judy etc.

The on-line form enables libraries to fill in the information direct and complete the national picture.

2. Question: Exactly who will see the information on this database?

Independent groups are reluctant to be added to databases as they meet in each other's homes.

Answer: Any member of the public will be able to see basic information for groups in a radius of a particular postcode. There is a note to the on-line form where we are collecting information about people's personal names and addresses (sections 3, 4 and 7) *'if this group meets in a private house, you may prefer to give the appropriate library address, postcode and phone number in this section'*

Otherwise only TRA, MLA and LearnDirect will see **all** the information on this database and TRA alone will manage its use on behalf of the others.

3. Question: Why do we have to have such a laborious legal process and hand over rights to TRA? Getting Chiefs to sign release forms about information which normally appears in the public domain made the whole process seem more complicated than needed.

Answer: SCL asked us to ensure that we had a watertight set up regarding intellectual property rights and data protection and so we took legal advice. The database is set up so that all parties (TRA, MLA, LearnDirect, Local Authorities) can carry out their functions within the law. We have agreements with all the individual authorities, MLA and with LearnDirect to ensure the correctness of the use of the information. Our solicitor has explained that if intellectual property is owned jointly, each party needs the permission of the other before it can use it. If we had left the intellectual property rights regarding the data with various local authorities we would also have needed to obtain a license from them to use the database as required under the MLA contract. It all gets very complicated and this seemed the most straightforward way of proceeding!

At the last count 110 authorities had signed the legal agreement.

4. Question: Please can you explain the relevance of point 6 in the letter to this particular agreement.

Answer: Moral rights apply to literary, dramatic, musical, artistic works and films. They are: the right to be identified as author of the work; the right not to have the work subjected to derogatory treatment; and the right not to have the work falsely attributed. The meaning of point 6 is to exclude these rights and to require any employees or sub-contractors to exclude these rights.