



## Libraries and RROs – an Introduction

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### What and Why?

- What is a collecting society and why were they established?
- What is an RRO?
  - Organisation set up by authors and publishers (often supported by legislation);
  - Grants licences mainly for multiple photocopying;
  - Grants licences for some digital uses (**BE AWARE not to pay twice!**: always check if the digital use is already licensed directly with the publisher when you bought a licence for a digital product): such as digitisation of print originals

### Who does the RRO represent?

- Rightsholders who live or publish in a particular country :
  - Fiction and drama writers
  - Non-fiction authors, including authors of teaching material
  - Journalist
  - Translators
  - Visual artists: painters, sculptors, graphic designers and illustrators
  - Photographers
  - Composers and songwriters
  - Publishers of books, journals, periodicals, magazines, newspapers and sheet music
- Other Rightsholders – foreign publishers (extended collective licences)

## Tasks of an RRO

- Monitor where and when and by whom copyrighted works are used: such as educational and cultural institutions, public administration, business sector, copy shops and religious bodies;
- Negotiating licences with institutions for the use of such works, including the licence fees;
- Collecting the licence fees;
- Distributing the collected remunerations to authors, publishers and other rightsholders.

## Licence types

- RROs may grant:
  - Ad-hoc transactional licence - one-off copying
  - Blanket licence – one fits all licence for any work
  - Institution/Sector licence – such as for all education institutions
- Licences granted by national law:
  - Statutory licence – amount of royalty is in the law
  - Compulsory licence – licence cannot be refused by the RRO but the royalty can be set by the RRO

## Extended Collective Licence

- Nordic concept, exported to the rest of the world
- It extends royalty payments beyond national authors and publishers
- Controversial and potentially costly

## Negotiating with an RRO

- Be prepared through investigation and discussion
  - Do I need a licence?
  - Are you negotiating with the right RRO?
  - What is the legal authority of the RRO?
  - Have institutions like yours been approached as well?
  - What kind of use are they licensing? Is this already allowed by law or allowed in an existing licence with a publisher?
  - Are they a member of IFRRO?

### Content of a licence

- Once you are convinced a licence is necessary, make sure the licence provides you with what you need for your institution and users:
  - Definitions of Authorised Users
  - Licence Fee
  - Warranties & indemnities (right to grant the licence and the uses set out in the licence)
  - Licence Term

### Benefits of an RRO licence

- Enables to copy legally without future repercussions
- Easing the burden of individual rights clearance
- Indemnity if something goes wrong
- Sector wide licence – cheaper than individual licence
- Always be aware of pitfalls as well. Business approach, licence content and services of RROs vary from country to country.

### Do not forget to:

- Always read the licence and if words or paragraphs are unclear seek legal advice
- Try to negotiate (price and term)
- Try to set up a Task Force within the library sector – always good to discuss and negotiate together
- Always do your own research to ascertain the facts e.g. legal authority, who they represent, etc.
- Keep in mind that the first licence will set the precedent for others – so first one is very important

### Do not forget to:

- Ask questions about: where the money goes, transparency of the organisation, efficiency – in the end it is public money we are dealing with;
- Ask for a list of rightsholders they represent;
- This will enable you to check that you only pay a fee for authors and publishers that the RRO represents (and not for foreign publishers if you do not have to), and for materials in your library.

EIFL members, contact EIFL if  
in need of help and advice.

Recommended reading:

[How to negotiate with your  
national Reproduction Rights  
Organization - an EIFL guide.](#)

[RROs: selected news and  
resources: \[www.eifl.net/rros\]\(http://www.eifl.net/rros\)](#)



**How to negotiate with your national Reproduction Rights Organization  
An EIFL Guide**

How to negotiate with your national Reproduction Rights Organization (RRO) is intended as a practical guide for libraries if they are approached by an RRO, or when they need to approach an RRO themselves. It sets out the role and tasks of an RRO, the types of licences on offer and highlights issues to consider when negotiating a licence. The Guide offers tips and provides support for libraries to obtain the most suitable terms of use and value for money for the institution. It is available online at: [www.eifl.net/copyright](http://www.eifl.net/copyright).

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