

# Journal/Magazine Scheme FAQs

October 2010

The logo for the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALCS). It features the letters 'ALCS' in a bold, dark red, serif font. Below the letters is a faint, light-colored reflection of the same text.

protecting  
and promoting  
authors' rights

## **Why do you hold money for journal/magazine writers and where does it come from?**

In addition to books ALCS also collects royalties for UK published journals and magazines. Royalties are generated by the Copyright Licensing Agency's (CLA) photocopying licensing scheme which allows institutions to obtain a licence to photocopy a limited amount from any book or journal/magazine. Institutions vary from universities and colleges to government bodies and businesses.

The CLA divide photocopying royalties between the publishers and the authors, with the publishers' share being distributed via the Publishers' Licensing Society and the authors' share via the ALCS.

As long as the journal has an ISSN it is eligible to be included in the photocopying scheme.

## **How much do you hold for me?**

ALCS operates a claims scheme whereby writers register their published articles with ALCS and receive a share of the total photocopying royalties collected. This means that writers will receive a payment for their articles being potentially photocopied rather than based on actual photocopying evidence.

Because the amount ALCS receives from the CLA differs each year and because the number of people claiming and what they claim for varies each year we cannot accurately say how much an individual may receive.

## **Why can't you be more accurate?**

The main problem faced by ALCS in distributing royalties collected for journals is that the data received only lists the journal titles which have been photocopied and not the individual articles copied. This means that the article writer cannot be identified. The data also does not specify the edition of the journal as the ISSN remains the same each time the journal is published.

## **Do different types of journals/magazines earn more than others?**

To reflect trends in photocopying each journal is categorised by their subject matter and separate funds are available for each category. Similarly ALCS classify each article submitted by writers depending on their subject matter. For example a 'Medicine' article payment will generally be larger than a 'Lifestyle' article payment as medical journals tend to be photocopied more than lifestyle magazines.

The categories are: Business and Administrative Studies; Computer and Library Sciences; Education; Engineering and Architecture; General Science; Humanities, Languages and Arts; Law; Lifestyle; Medicine; Social, Economic and Political Studies and Unclassified (usually general interest periodicals).

## What about online articles?

Not yet. ALCS currently collects secondary royalties for photocopying and some scanning of print media. However, along with the CLA, ALCS is looking at possible future schemes whereby the use of online or digital material can generate royalties for writers.

## What about newspaper articles?

In 2008 ALCS signed an agreement with the Société Civile des Auteurs Multimedia in Belgium to collect fees due to UK authors for the reprographic copying of UK newspapers in Belgium.

Having received the first payment of fees from the Belgium society, ALCS is due to distribute monies owed to freelancers in February 2011. To find out if you are eligible to claim a share of this fund please click [here](#).

UK newspapers are not included in the CLA photocopying licensing scheme as these rights are administered by the Newspaper Licensing Agency (NLA). With the exception of the Belgium scheme, presently authors cannot claim for royalties on any other newspaper articles or from supplementary magazines from ALCS.

## Does ALCS collect photocopying royalties for journals and magazines from overseas?

Yes. The CLA has reciprocal agreements with a number of countries which allows photocopying for any UK published journals and magazines to be transferred to the CLA on behalf of UK publishers and contributors to UK journals/magazines.

## What if I am resident overseas but write for UK journals and magazines?

Yes, you can register with ALCS and claim on the same basis as a UK resident, but any resultant payment will be subject to a UK Withholding Tax of 20%. A double tax exemption certificate would need to be obtained and forwarded to ALCS to make you exempt from this tax deduction.

## How do I register?

Simply download the [application for membership form](#) from our website and return it to us, or alternatively contact Membership Services on 020 7264 5700. Those applying for membership to receive royalties from journal/magazines articles will also need to submit details of published articles. Please use the [journal and magazine article form](#) to do so.

## Why do I have to include the word count when registering?

Payment is dependent on word count per article. One large article/essay should receive a similar amount of royalties as several smaller articles if published in the same journal category. We use a payment system based on bands of 2,000 words. If the word count for your article is less than 2,000 it will automatically be upgraded to the minimum payment (defined as 2,000 words or less).

## **When can I expect royalties?**

ALCS operates two distributions per year in February and August with the journal distribution taking place in February. The previous calendar year to the distribution can not be included to allow enough time for both writers to register their articles and for ALCS to receive royalties generated.