

# The Authors Registry

[About](#)[Governance](#)[Royalties](#)[Agencies](#)[Groups](#)[FAQ](#)

The Authors Registry is a member of  
**CISAC**

The Authors Registry is a not-for-profit clearinghouse for payments to authors, receiving royalties from organizations and distributing them to U.S. authors. It was founded in 1995 by a consortium of U.S. authors' organizations: The Authors Guild, The American Society of Journalists & Authors, the Dramatists Guild, and the Association of Authors' Representatives. To date, the Authors Registry has distributed over \$8,000,000 to authors in the United States.

## Information for Individual Authors

Individual authors not affiliated with an enrolled agency or organization may register with the Authors Registry by submitting a data form. If you are a member of one of the agencies or

## Founding Organizations

**Authors Guild: Advocates for published authors since 1912**

**AAR: Association of Authors' Representatives**

**ASJA: American Society of Journalists and Authors**

**The Dramatists Guild of America**

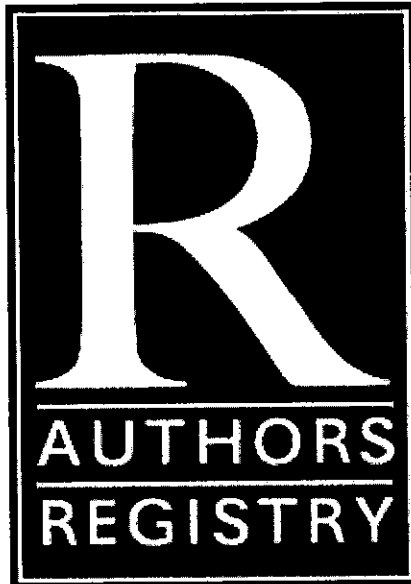


organizations already enrolled, you are entitled to a free listing in the Registry. Check the list of enrolled agencies and organizations, or contact your agency or organization for confirmation.

The fee for unaffiliated authors listing with the Registry is \$10. To register, e-mail us at **staff@authorsregistry.org** and request a registration form.

Copyright ©2008 The Authors Registry.  
All rights reserved.

# The Authors Registry

[About](#)[Governance](#)[Royalties](#)[Agencies](#)[Groups](#)[FAQ](#)

The Authors Registry is a member of  
**CISAC**

## How does the Authors Registry work for authors?

The function of the Authors Registry is to act as a clearinghouse or payment agent for organizations wishing to distribute payments to individual U.S.-resident authors. Based on its agreements with the organizations, the Registry receives lump-sum payments and distribution data from (usually foreign) payers. The Registry's job is to get the payments to the individual authors for whom they're designated. This involves locating the author-payees (if they're not already in our database), creating an account for each one (this involves some minimal paperwork), and sending out checks. We also keep the records necessary for required reporting to the IRS (although we don't withhold

## Founding Organizations

**Authors Guild:** Advocates for published authors since 1912

**AAR:** Association of Authors' Representatives

**ASJA:** American Society of Journalists and Authors

**The Dramatists Guild of America**



taxes).

**For what kinds of uses of my works might the Authors Registry receive payment?**

Payments are typically for photocopying and other similar uses of copyrighted works, carried out under national blanket licensing systems, and collected by local authors' rights organizations.

**Will the Authors Registry distribute royalties to me from my publisher?**

No. The Registry does not deal with publishers' royalties. We will contact you if we receive payment for you from one of the organizations with whom we're working.

**How will an author be contacted by the Authors Registry?**

We send out both postal mailings and e-mailings to authors for whom we've received payment. We give a brief account of where the payment comes from, what work or works it's for

(when possible), and how much it amounts to. We also include the paperwork necessary for us to set up an account for the author.

**What paperwork is an author required to complete?**

The necessary paperwork includes a W-9 form, which is the IRS request for the payee's Social Security number. We are required to report any payment we make in excess of \$10, and must use the payee's Social Security number for this reporting. Also included is our Commission Authorization form, which collects the author's contact information and authorizes us to retain our standard 5% commission.

**What does an author pay for the Registry's services?**

The Authors Registry retains a 5% commission from all payments we distribute. This is the lowest commission in the industry, and covers only part of

our operating expenses.

**I've submitted the paperwork. When will I receive payment?**

Checks are sent out in batches, on a schedule determined by a number of variables. Generally, you should receive payment within a few weeks of returning the paperwork.

**Will I receive more payments in the future? Will I need to fill out more forms?**

The majority of authors who receive payment through the Authors Registry do receive further payments in the future. However, we are unable to predict with certainty when, or whether, a given author will receive another payment. Once you have submitted the required forms, we will not request any further paperwork. Future payments will be sent automatically as we receive them.

**Does the Authors Registry need a list**

**of my works? Does  
the Registry  
represent my  
rights?**

No and no. Since the Authors Registry functions purely as a clearinghouse, it does not calculate or generate any payments on its own. We merely receive payments and pass them along. We do not represent the rights of our author members.

**Will my contact  
information be  
available to the  
public?**

Our contact database is not connected to the Internet or available to the public in any way except by individual inquiry. If we receive an inquiry that requests your contact information, we will release only the information that you permit us to. Both the Application Form and the Commission Authorization form have sections that allow you to designate what contact information, if any, you authorize us to give out to inquirers.

For further  
information on  
enrolling with the  
Registry, please  
contact Terry King at  
(212) 563-6920 or by  
e-mail at **staff@  
authorsregistry.org**.

Copyright ©2008 The  
Authors Registry.  
All rights reserved.