

## Frequently asked questions

### **What is a Reproduction Rights Organization?**

Reproduction Rights Organizations (RROs) began in response to the need to license wide-scale photocopy access to the world's scientific and cultural printed works. RROs are a form of "collecting societies" which also exist in other fields such as music performance and artists' rights. RROs license reproduction of copyright-protected material whenever it is less advantageous for rightsholders to act individually. RROs derive their authority from national legislation and/or from contracts with rightsholders. Each year, national RROs license hundreds of thousands of users to copy from millions of titles published throughout the world.

### **I did not give permission for anyone in a foreign country to make use of my material. How did this happen? Isn't this illegal?**

Foreign RROs generally collect photocopy license fees under authority granted by their respective national legislation, which may not require the RRO to obtain permission from rightsholders of the material (i.e., the law, not the rightsholder, grants the license). The license fee in that country was set by the foreign RRO under its applicable governing statutes and rules.

### **Why does Copyright Clearance Center receive funds collected by foreign RROs?**

In order to collect royalties and convey authorizations internationally, RROs enter into bilateral agreements. Copyright Clearance Center (CCC), the U.S. RRO, has bilateral agreements with RROs in over 20 foreign countries. Bilateral agreements provide for the exchange of licensing authority in national repertoires of works where that authority is required. They also provide for the conveyance of royalties back to the rightsholders via their national RROs. These agreements are based upon the principle of national treatment, as found in the Berne and Universal Copyright Conventions. Under national treatment, each RRO collects and distributes photocopy royalties on behalf of foreign rightsholders on the same basis as it does for its own domestic rightsholders. CCC is notified by the collecting RROs through our bilateral agreements and asked to distribute the funds accordingly.

### **I am not a U.S. rightsholder. Why am I receiving funds collected by other RROs via CCC?**

Foreign RROs forward royalties for U.S. rightsholders to CCC for distribution. As part of this process, CCC reprocesses this data and allocates the royalties to the most current rightsholder, which in certain circumstances is a non-U.S. rightsholder. As a result, some non-U.S. rightsholders do receive funds from CCC.

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### Has CCC paid a share of these funds to any other rightsholders in my titles?

No, CCC has not paid any portion of the foreign funds allocated to these titles to any other rightsholder (such as the publisher if you are the author, or the author or another contributor if you are the publisher). CCC receives two types of royalty payments from other RROs – Title-Specific and Non-Title-Specific. This payment is Title-Specific. Therefore, the collecting RRO(s) have provided usage information which CCC is passing on to you simultaneously with this payment. This information identifies the title(s) that were used and should assist you in sharing the funds with any other rightsholders of the title(s) in accordance with your contracts.

### What compensation is CCC receiving for handling the distribution?

CCC, as a not-for-profit organization, receives a service fee to cover the costs of collecting and distributing these funds. The standard fee has changed as of May 2010 to 16%. Also, to cover administrative costs associated with paying rightsholders who are not participating in CCC's Foreign Authorizations Service, an additional 16% service fee is retained.

### How can I learn more about CCC's licensing services?

You can register to participate in Foreign Authorizations Service or CCC's other licensing services by contacting us directly at +1 978-750-8400 or [rightsholders@copyright.com](mailto:rightsholders@copyright.com). Please ask for Rightsholder Relations.

### How long has CCC been in operation?

CCC was formed in 1978 to facilitate compliance with U.S. copyright law. CCC has been collecting and distributing royalties for photocopying by U.S. corporations, document suppliers, government agencies and academic institutions for 30 years. For more information about CCC, please visit [www.copyright.com](http://www.copyright.com).

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