

## **Non–Title-Specific Royalties for Authors, Transcript**

### Speakers:

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**MH:** Hello. I'm Michael Healy, Executive Director of International Relations at CCC. I'm here with my colleague Victoriano Colodrón to provide you with some information about a specific type of royalty payment which you as an author may have received. These are called "non–title-specific royalties."

**VC:** Thank you, Michael. First, we should explain what these royalties represent.

**MH:** Absolutely. These royalties are collected by organizations similar to CCC in countries outside the United States, and they are sent to CCC in compliance with international copyright treaties.

**VC:** Why are the royalties distributed through CCC?

**MH:** CCC is a collective licensing organization itself. In the publishing sector, these organizations are usually referred to as Reproduction Rights Organizations, or RROs. One reason we exist is to distribute royalties from other countries to U.S. rightsholders.

**VC:** Some authors are surprised that their content is used in other countries. Is it OK for this to happen without the author's or publisher's permission?

**MH:** For certain types of use, according to a country's copyright law the permission of the author or publisher is not required. These types of use focus on copying and NOT republication for commercial purposes. These types of use also extend only to copying parts of a work—not a whole work—and the most common users are educational institutions.

**VC:** How do foreign RROs know what was used, and why aren't the titles of works included with the payments to authors?

**MH:** Record-keeping and royalty assignment rules vary from country to country, and CCC distributes according to the instructions of each foreign RRO. The information they provide may include only author names.

**VC:** How does CCC locate authors in order to pay them?

**MH:** CCC uses a variety of resources to locate authors, including commercially available databases, Internet research, online telephone directories, and communication with publishers, literary agents and other organizations.

**VC:** What about publishers? Some authors have contractually agreed exclusive distribution through their publishers.

**MH:** The rules of other countries may disregard private agreements between authors and publishers and require that a percentage of these specific funds be distributed to publishers, and a percentage to authors or other creators. RROs follow their own countries' copyright laws and practices rather than contract law or U.S. copyright law.

**VC:** How do authors know which countries have contributed to their non–title-specific royalty payment?

**MH:** RightsCentral is CCC's secure channel for royalty communication, and the cover letters stored there include the names of contributing RROs to any specific payment. We encourage authors to sign up for a free RightsCentral account to access payment history.

**VC:** Got it. If an author receives royalties once, is it likely they will receive future payments?

**MH:** Future royalty payments will depend on funds and reported usage received from foreign RROs, which we cannot predict. Also, it is important to note that the distribution schedules of foreign RROs can be irregular.

**VC:** Thanks for taking us through the details, Michael. And, authors: if you have further questions, please take a look at the resources in our Royalty Information Center. Thank you for listening.