



Anthropic Copyright Settlement: FAQ for Independent Booksellers

1. What is the Anthropic settlement, and what was decided?

The *Bartz v. Anthropic* class action settlement is a \$1.5 billion resolution – the largest copyright class-action settlement in history.

The lawsuit alleged that Anthropic downloaded millions of copyrighted books from pirate libraries, including Library Genesis (LibGen) and Pirate Library Mirror (PiLiMi), and copied and retained those works in connection with its AI development activities.

In June 2025, the federal court found on summary judgment that Anthropic’s use of lawfully acquired books to train its AI models was fair use as to the named plaintiffs’ books at issue in that ruling. The court separately found that Anthropic’s mass downloading and retention of books obtained from pirate libraries was not fair use on the summary-judgment record.

As part of the agreement, Anthropic will establish a \$1.5 billion settlement fund. The fund will be divided equally across eligible works for which copyright owners submit a valid claim. Before distribution, the fund will also cover notice and administrative costs, attorneys’ fees and expenses, and service awards for the class representatives. Each eligible work with a valid claim receives an equal per-work share of the remaining fund; the amount was estimated at approximately \$3,000 per work (not class member) plus interest earned on the Settlement fund, less the Court-approved costs and fees taken out of the Settlement fund.¹

¹ [“Frequently Asked Questions,”](#) Homepage, accessed September 28, 2026.

Under the court-approved settlement, Anthropic must fund the \$1.5 billion settlement and destroy the original files of works it torrented or downloaded from LibGen or PiLiMi, along with copies that originate from those files, subject to legal-preservation requirements.

2. Do independent booksellers receive any money from the \$1.5 billion settlement?

Generally, no – but not simply because they are booksellers.

Settlement payments go to qualifying legal or beneficial copyright owners of works included on the settlement's [Works List](#). A bookstore that simply sells a book ordinarily does not own the exclusive reproduction rights and therefore would not be entitled to a settlement payment.

The settlement provides an estimated payment of approximately \$3,000 per qualifying work, less court-approved costs and fees. Payments are allocated among the applicable copyright owners according to the settlement's procedures. For non-education works, the default allocation generally provides 50% to publishers and 50% to authors, although the allocation can vary depending on the rights associated with a particular work.²

Booksellers per se are not direct beneficiaries of the settlement merely by virtue of selling the affected books. That said, if you received a notice from the Settlement Administrator, JND Legal Administration, you may be the legal or beneficial copyright owner of a work that Anthropic downloaded from one of two websites: Library Genesis and Pirate Library Mirror.³

This means in most cases that you are a publisher or author of a book and (a) either own the exclusive right to publish and reproduce the book or (b) as an author, have granted the exclusive right to publish and reproduce the book to a publisher in exchange for

² ["What Authors Need to Know About the \\$1.5 Billion Anthropic Settlement."](#) The Authors Guild, accessed September 28, 2026.

³ ["Frequently Asked Questions."](#)

royalty payments. The first round of payments is currently expected to be sent on or before November 15, 2026, for works (a) on which claimants do not disagree on the appropriate allocation (or who quickly reach agreement to resolve any disagreement) and (b) for which claimants have provided all the information required to process their payments.⁴

If you are not sure whether you are included, you can get help by calling 1-877-206-2314 or by emailing info@AnthropicCopyrightSettlement.com.

3. How does the settlement impact the bookselling market?

The settlement requires Anthropic to destroy the files it obtained from LibGen and PiLiMi and copies derived from those files, subject to legal-preservation requirements.

This removes Anthropic's own unauthorized archive of those works. It does not, however, eliminate the pirate libraries themselves or remove unauthorized copies from the Internet generally.

The settlement addresses one source of unauthorized digital copies and establishes a significant financial remedy for copyright owners. That may help protect the commercial value of legitimate books and authorized digital editions.

Moreover, it could be argued that eliminating Anthropic's unauthorized copies removes one potential source of competition with legitimate distribution channels.

The court's finding that Anthropic's use of lawfully acquired books to train its AI models was fair use is relevant, as well, and will likely impact ongoing discussions about licensing copyrighted works for AI training.

4. How does the settlement impact bookselling?

The changing AI landscape may make some of the traditional strengths of independent bookstores even more important.

⁴ ["Frequently Asked Questions."](#)

Human curation

Booksellers can provide expert recommendations and a trusted filter in an increasingly crowded marketplace. Personal knowledge of books, authors, customers, and local interests is difficult to replicate through automated recommendations alone.

Community and culture

Author events, book clubs, readings, children's programming, and other in-person experiences provide opportunities for readers to connect with authors, booksellers, and one another.

Independent bookstores can continue emphasizing the aspects of book buying that are inherently social, local, and human.

5. What do authors and publishers think of the settlement and its impact on the industry?

Authors

The Authors Guild issued a [statement](#) noting that, while the settlement holds Anthropic accountable for downloading books from pirate websites, it "...does not come close to remedying the harm to the publishing ecosystem caused by AI companies using books and journalism as foundational components of their large language models. While the settlement compensates authors and publishers for Anthropic's act of downloading books from pirate sites, AI models continue to gorge books without the consent of their authors and publishers, now through destructive scanning. As an industry we face a decisive moment, and it behooves us all to look out for each other."⁵

The Authors Guild also said that major publishing houses with thousands of books in the settlement will receive large sums that will have a noticeably positive impact on their bottom lines, while only a handful of authors will receive more than a modest amount from the settlement. The Guild further claims that many authors were left out of the

⁵ ["Authors Guild Statement to Publishers on Anthropic Settlement: Relinquish Claims on Long Out of Print Books and Pay Out for Works You Failed to Register."](#) The Authors Guild, accessed September 28, 2026.

settlement because their publishers failed to register their works with the US Copyright Office in a timely manner, despite contractual obligations to do so.⁶

To address these concerns, the Authors Guild issued three calls to action for publishers:

- **Relinquish Claims on Out-of-Print Books:** Publishers should voluntarily waive their 50% payout claim on titles out of print for years or decades, granting 100% of the award to the author.
- **Compensate Unregistered Authors:** Publishers should use a portion of their proceeds to pay a 50% award share (approximately \$1,500) to authors whose works were excluded due to the publisher's failure to register the copyright on time, subject to the conditions outlined by the Guild.
- **Invest in Literary Diversity:** Publishers should reinvest settlement funds into new, diverse writers and developmental programs to support the future of the publishing ecosystem.⁷

Publishers

The Association of American Publishers (AAP) viewed the settlement as a major step in holding AI developers accountable for copyright infringement. In a statement, AAP President and CEO Maria A. Pallante applauded the "court's final approval of this settlement, which represents an important victory in the larger battle to hold big tech accountable for its unscrupulous appropriation of intellectual and creative properties that clearly belong to authors and publishers. In this case, the court recognized that downloading from pirate sites is not a choice we should simply accept as an efficiency for the infringer; on the contrary, it's abhorrent conduct that should never be normalized."

AAP also stressed, "Nor should fair use extend to training, which can easily be licensed like every other digital use in the modern copyright economy. Tech companies might like a copyright law with a giant hole in the place of exclusive rights, but that law does not exist. Partnerships, not piracy, are the best path forward."⁸

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ "[News Archive](#)," AAP, accessed September 28, 2026.

For more information on the settlement itself, visit the official settlement website:

<https://www.anthropiccopyrightsettlement.com/faq>