**Some Statistics
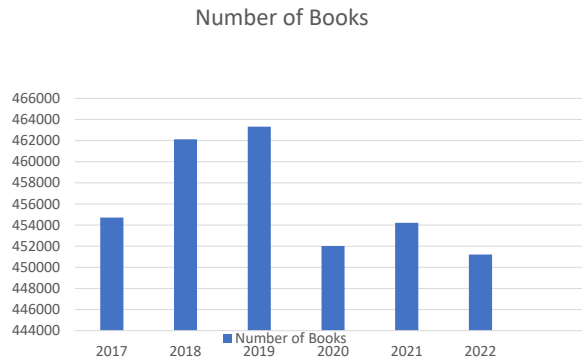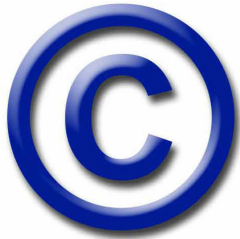About Self Published Books
Copyright
And
Pirating**

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Welcome to the statistics part of the presentation.
I will be going over a lot of information quickly.
Anyone wishing to receive copies of this section as a handout just put your email in the chat section on the right.

According to the United States Copyright Office, a total of 2,737,587 books were registered between the years 2017 and 2022. Here is the breakdown by year:

Number of Books

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It is difficult to truly know the exact numbers of books published within a year and dividing them out into traditionally published and self-published even more so. From these numbers we get the impression that only 4 to 500,000 books are registered each year with the copyright office. They do not reflect all the books published during these years because self-published authors are not required to register.

Bowker Report: The Bowker Report, which tracks ISBN registrations, provides a good indicator of self-publishing activity. According to the report, the number of self-published ISBNs issued in the US was:

1. 2017: 1,088,278
2. 2018: 1,551,391
3. 2019: 2,239,670 (includes a large order from a major self-publishing platform)
4. 2020: 1,890,356
5. 2021: 2,298,004
6. 2022: 2,036,089

No, The Copyright Office website doesn't explicitly differentiate between traditionally published and self-published books in their registration data. However, we can estimate the number of self-published books by using industry reports and estimates like these numbers from Bowker.

Industry Estimates: Other industry estimates suggest that self-published books account for around 40-50% of all book sales in the US.

Combining these sources, we can estimate that the number of self-published books registered with the Copyright Office between 2017 and 2022 was roughly:

- 2017: 217,655 (47% of total registrations)
- 2018: 231,060 (50% of total registrations)
- 2019: 915,868 (41% of total registrations)
- 2020: 180,804 (40% of total registrations)
- 2021: 227,105 (49% of total registrations)
- 2022: 225,605 (49% of total registrations)

Total estimated self-published books: 2,008,100

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The Bowker Report does not directly track ISBNs registered to self publishing places such as Draft2Digital or Kindle Publishing (KDP). They are required to report the ISBNs along with the rest book metadata when published on their platforms

Side NOTE:
Bowker assigns ISBNs: As the official ISBN agency for the United States, Bowker tracks all ISBNs assigned, including those purchased by self-publishing platforms like Draft2Digital and KDP.

Platforms report ISBNs: Both Draft2Digital and KDP require authors to provide an ISBN when publishing their books. This information is then reported to Bowker.

Bowker data is aggregated: The Bowker report aggregates ISBN data from various sources, including self-publishing platforms, publishers, and retailers. While it doesn't specifically isolate Draft2Digital and KDP, it provides a comprehensive picture of the self-publishing landscape.

It is a reliable indicator of self-publishing activity as a whole, and can be used to estimate the number of self-published books on these platforms.

Here are some resources for further information:

•Draft2Digital blog: https://www.draft2digital.com/blog/

•KDP Self-Publishing Dashboard: https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/help/topic/G200644310

•Bowker Report: https://www.bowker.com/siteassets/files/pdf-files/bowker-selfpublishing-report-2019.pdf

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While you won't find a specific breakdown for Draft2Digital and KDP in the Bowker report, you can use the total number of self-published ISBNs to estimate the activity on these platforms. Additionally, you can explore the reports from Draft2Digital and KDP directly to get further insights into their publishing activities.

Estimates of Fiction Book Piracy

Based on available data and estimates, here's a rough approximation of fiction book piracy over the past five years:

Global Book Piracy Rate: According to the IPA, the global book piracy rate in 2021 stood at 21%, indicating that one in five ebooks accessed globally was likely pirated.

Fiction Book Share: Fiction books represent a significant portion of the ebook market, estimated to be around 60%. Applying this percentage to the global piracy rate suggests that approximately 12.6% of all fiction books accessed over the past five years were pirated.

Number of Pirated Fiction Books: Based on this estimation and assuming a global ebook market size of 2.7 billion units in 2018 (according to Statista), approximately 1.62 billion fiction books were pirated over the past five years.

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Now let's move on to the piracy numbers of published books.

This is just an estimate, and the actual number of pirated fiction books could be higher or lower.

These estimations vary significantly based on region, genre, and accessibility of legitimate channels.

Piracy rates fluctuate over time and are influenced by various factors.

Where to Find Out More

International Publishers Association (IPA): https://internationalpublishers.org/

TorrentFreak: https://torrentfreak.com/

The Pirate Bay: https://thepiratebay.org/

Nielsen: https://www.nielsen.com/

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For more information on what types of reports are being generated about piracy you can visit these websites for more information.

Here are some specific examples of recent lawsuits involving pirated books

Authors Guild vs. KISS Library: In 2020, the Authors Guild and several publishers sued the operators of a large ebook piracy website, resulting in a $7.8 million default judgment.

HarperCollins vs. Z Library: In 2023, HarperCollins filed a lawsuit against Z Library, another major ebook piracy website, accusing it of widespread copyright infringement.

Authors Guild
Professional organization for writers

authorsguild.org

HarperCollins
American publishing house

harpercollins.com

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Now as to the actual number of cases being brought about piracy. We have even more trouble. There are websites you can check if you would like more information about these types of cases and their results. – Copyright Alliance, The U.S. Copyright Office, Industry Reports provided by the Authors Guild and the Association of American Publishers.

Copyright Alliance: This organization publishes an annual "Copyright Alert System Report" which tracks reported copyright infringement notices sent by rightsholders to internet service providers (ISPs). While not all of these notices result in lawsuits, they offer a glimpse into the scale of potential legal action.

US Copyright Office: The website provides information on copyright registration and enforcement, including statistics on registered works and copyright infringement claims.

Industry Reports: Organizations like the Authors Guild and the Association of American Publishers sometimes release reports or statements addressing piracy and legal actions taken against infringers.

Based on these resources, it's estimated that only a small fraction of known piracy cases involving books actually lead to lawsuits. This could range from 1% to 5%, depending on the specific timeframe and definition of "known piracy."

Why is it so Difficult to Make a Dent in Book Piracy?

Difficulty in identifying individual infringers:

Tracing downloaded files back to specific users can be challenging, especially with anonymous downloading methods.

Cost of litigation: Pursuing legal action against individual infringers can be expensive and time-consuming, often outweighing the potential benefits.

Focus on prevention and education: Many rightsholders prioritize preventative measures like copyright education and technological solutions over individual lawsuits.
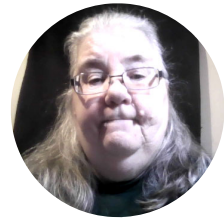
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While the precise number of lawsuits involving pirated books remains elusive, it's clear that legal action is only one aspect of addressing piracy. A multifaceted approach combining prevention, education, and targeted enforcement is crucial to protecting intellectual property and supporting authors.

Copyright Claims Board (CCB)

CCB Quarterly Activity Reports: These reports provide data on the number of cases filed, the number of cases decided, the average length of time to resolve a case, and the average amount of damages awarded. The latest quarterly report is available for the period of July 1, 2023, to September 30, 2023.

CCB Annual Report: The first annual report for the CCB was released in July 2023 and covers the period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. This report provides more detailed information on the CCB's operations, including data on the types of cases filed, the demographics of the parties involved, and the disposition of cases.

CCB Case Studies: The CCB has also published case studies of some of the cases that it has decided. These case studies provide insights into how the CCB applies the law and how it resolves disputes.

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The Copyright Claims Board (CCB), which is the Small Claims division of the U.S. Copyright Office, has released several reports since it opened in July 2022. These reports provide information on the number of cases filed, the types of cases filed, the average amount of damages awarded, and other data on the CCB's operations.

Here are some links to the reports and data

CCB Quarterly Activity Reports: https://ccb.gov/

CCB Annual Report:
https://www.copyright.gov/history/annual_reports.html

CCB Case Studies: https://ccb.gov/

CCB Data: https://ccb.gov/

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Here are some of the key findings from these reports:
- As of September 30, 2023, the CCB had received over 1,000 cases.
- The most common types of cases filed with the CCB are copyright infringement cases, followed by misrepresentation cases under section 512(f) of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA).
- The average amount of damages awarded by the CCB is approximately $5,000.
- The average time to resolve a case before the CCB is approximately 4 months.

It is still early to draw any firm conclusions about the impact of the CCB, but these reports provide valuable insights into the CCB's operations and how it is being used by copyright owners and alleged infringers.

How do you unlock the benefits of the Copyright Office and have access to the Copyright Claims Board if you need it?

Register your book with https://copyright.gov prior to publication for the low, low fee of $45/$55 per book. They will give you up to 90 days after publication to register.

However, if your book gets pirated before your register you will not have access to the benefits afforded by the CCB.