

I am a recently published author. I have had modest success in sales for a first-time small-press author from Tasmania and have been signed by my publisher for the term of a long series of fantasy titles (seven written so far and coming out one a year). My publisher expects interest to grow and, by the end, for me to be making a living off the series. Even though neither they nor I have broken even with the first book yet. Given my employment history (largely due to illness) and having to use superannuation to pay debts I have no savings and these books represent, not only my future income, but my sole major material legacy to my children. We are linking my books to material support through Patreon (a crowd-funding site of sorts) and, at the current rate of growth in interest expect to be financially independent within a few years. We also expect to link the books creatively through graphic novels and (hopefully) a video game.

I notice, in your report you refer to single volumes of work and make no mention of series. In the genre in which I write it can take 15-20 years for a series to gain importance. Think of how long it took Tolkien to gain sales and (more currently) George RR Martin had written his first book over 15 years before he signed his TV contract for Game of Thrones. Sales did not begin to escalate for him until then. I know because I discussed this with him and he was the one who urged me to begin writing. Writing is a 'long game' and success can come many years after initial publication.

Reducing copyright terms makes a mockery of this. While people often write just for the fun of it, this generally termed 'fanfic' and rarely sells in any quantity. I have, over the years known hundreds of authors and every single one wants to make their living from their writing. As I said, this is only possible if the book is theirs solely over the long-term.

While much of your report, particular when talking about the degree of creativity required for patents et al, is valuable and well researched, I believe that you are headed in the wrong direction in terms of original literature and urge you to recommend to changes in this regard.

Thank you for your attention.

Cary J Lenehan
author