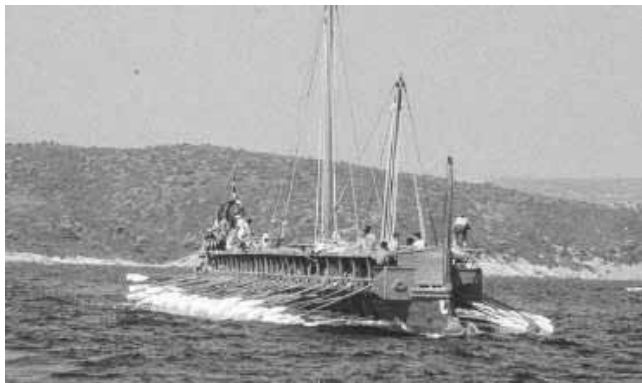


Information has reached the NUJ Freelance Office that freelancers working on the *Independent* titles are being asked to accept rate cuts. We understand that individuals are being called on the 'phone by a manager who explains that others have accepted cuts. We are trying to gather information about this. Would any freelance who has received such a 'phone call please contact the Office: freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.



The Trireme

This month's divinely-inspired Trireme Award for "the worst terms since I was last chained to the oars" goes to religious magazine *WEC*, whose job ad for a chief sub states: "This position is non-salaried as all *WEC* personnel look to God to provide their personal needs." A contributor to the NUJ's subs' email list (www.londonfreelance.org/uksubs) pointed out that God should provide this magazine with a sub-editor if they need one, so why do they bother advertising?

Photo © a member of the Trireme Trust

The Rate for the Job

ONE OF our speakers at a recent LFB meeting opened by asking to be the first to fill in (anonymously) the Rate for the Job sheet circulated at that event. And this month we have rates for teaching, tip-offs, royalties for calendar photography and editing entire books.

Thinking about work for a company you've not dealt with before? Simply look at the Rate for the Job to find out what companies in similar niches have paid. Then aim higher. You can submit rates online, in con-

fidence, at any time, at www.londonfreelance.org/rates – please give not only the basic rate (e.g. for FBS, First British Serial rights) but extra payments negotiated for extra uses, like the Web – or for print if it's a Rate for the Online Job. These are shown as (eg) £400 + 100. We now record rates paid in Euro as well. Rates marked **X** are, in the editor's fallible opinion, below par. Treat all rates as minima, even perhaps the happy ☺ few.

Broadcasting: More4 News Investigation, video package £2000; Sky News, presenting through limited company £350.

Photography: calendars, various (Infocado) 4 stock pix UK rights 1 year, 7.5 per cent royalty with advance of £260; Press Gazette £75 **XX**, TRVL.com (i-Pad app travel mag) per photo US\$15.

Shifts: Japanese publisher, edit 80,000-word book £4000; *Economia* subbing day £160; *Sunday Times* supplements subbing day (plus holiday pay) £144 **X**; *Closer* subbing day

£130 **X**; *Radio Times* subbing day (plus holiday pay) £120 **XX**; Archant local papers reporting day exes paid £85 **XX**.

Teaching: City Mine(d) half-day radio/audio workshop £250.

Tip-offs: *Daily Mail* £100; *Print News* £30.

Words, per 1000: *Guardian* G2 £500; *Daily Telegraph* motoring £500; *Times* £437.50; *Geographical* £300; thewriter.com £300; Gemalto (computer security company) £300 **X**; *Digital Arts* (IDG) 3000 words @ £800, online included £267; *Q* mag "page rate", elaborate licence, freelance keeps ©, £185; TRVL.com Euro 200; *Kent Life* article + provide photo contacts, all rights £130 **X**; *Sunday Herald* exclusive, FBS, no expenses £90 **XXXX**; *Time Out* £80 **XXX**.

Words, other: thenewblackmagazine.com 350-600 words £200; *Daily Telegraph* foreign news 300 mid-page sidebar + web, £60 **XXXX**; *Practical Boat Owner*, 2000 words + pics, anywhere in the world and for all time irrevocably waive rights £200 **X**.

Defend Public Lending Right

YOU HAVE UNTIL **30 July** to respond to the Department of Culture Media and Sport consultation on the "transfer" of Public Lending Right to "another body". Currently, the office of Public Lending Right in Stockton-on-Tees does a very efficient job of distributing over £6 million a year in payments to authors whose books are lent via public libraries.

As part of its "bonfire of the quangos" the government wants to end Public Lending Right's autonomy and give its functions to some other organisation: they would prefer this to be the British Library.

Unfortunately, the BL's track record for author-friendliness is not reassuring. See, for example, www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0709bl.html on the long-running saga of what happens to copyright fees paid for British Library Direct articles, and www.londonfreelance.org/

fl/1007bl.html for its plans to "digitise a range of in-copyright material – with the express permission of the publishers" but with no mention of the numerous freelance creators who hold copyright in their to-be-digi-

tised articles. You may wish to raise these concerns, and the need for a fair system, in Questions 1 to 3 on page 12 of the DCMS consultation, which is at www.culture.gov.uk/consultations/9019.aspx



Gateway to what? Can the British Library be persuaded to put authors' interests at the heart of its mission? Photo © **Matt Salusbury**

UNFAIR CONTRACTS from *p1* unless you sign: examples of clients who are willing to negotiate would be useful too.

- What work have you lost in the last year? How does it compare to last year? What are the reasons for the work disappearing?
- What new work or fields of work have appeared?
- How have rates changed?

Please send your information to freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk with the subject line "Freelance survey"

The closing date for this year's entries is Saturday 14 July.

These details will feed into a continent-wide campaign, with the EFJ – the federation of journalists' unions in Europe – seeking the support of Members of the European Parliament. The UK Creators' Rights Alliance (CRA), of which the NUJ is a leading member, has also offered support to the European Composers and Songwriters Alliance in its complaint to the European competition authority over the imposi-

tion of contracts on their members. The CRA has also allied with the UK consumer watchdog Consumer Focus to combat unfair contracts – see www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1204copy2.html – and the EFJ is extending this contact Europe-wide. Please sign the online petition at www.change.org/petitions/fair-trade-for-creators and spread the word about it.

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● And please remember to report Rate for the Job regularly: see above.