

LIFECYCLE OF A BOOK IN TRANSLATION

AUTHOR

Wrote a book whose foreign publication rights may be sold once per territory*.

Once upon a time...



* TERRITORY

(for the purposes of this infographic):

A legally defined area for which a publisher may purchase the right to translate and republish a book that was originally published elsewhere. May be defined geographically: (e.g.: China), or linguistically (e.g. Spanish). Only one publisher per territory may hold translation rights at any one time.

ORIGINAL RIGHTS HOLDER

Publisher, agent, or occasionally author who controls a book's foreign publication rights. Rights sales may be negotiated either by an in-house Rights Department, or an external Foreign Rights Agent.

FOR SALE

OPTIONAL INTERMEDIARIES between ORIGINAL RIGHTS HOLDER &

READER

Hired by a prospective Foreign Publisher to read a book in its original language and provide an acquiring editor with a report on its quality before the Rights are purchased.



FOREIGN RIGHTS AGENT

Works with Original Rights Holder to sell to Foreign Publishers in other Territories. May do business worldwide, or be a specialized Local Subagent, working in one specific region.

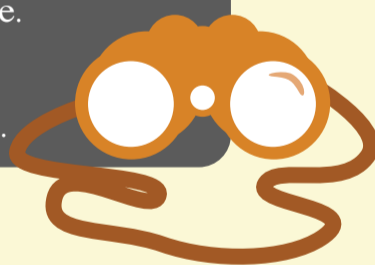


FOREIGN PUBLISHER

SCOUT

Hired by a Foreign Publisher to "scout out" Original Rights Holders' best new books, recommending which to acquire.

Primarily hired by Publishers outside the US seeking US titles.



TRANSLATOR

Either: 1) Recruited by an editor who has already acquired rights for a title, or 2) Approaches editor with a recommendation of a book worth acquiring and translating.

FOREIGN PUBLISHER

Within the Foreign Publishing House, an acquiring editor buys translation rights for a title and works with a translator to develop a new version to publish, market, and sell in the given territory.

SOLD

NEW READERS AROUND THE WORLD

