



TEXT AND ACADEMIC AUTHORS ASSOCIATION

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Google Print Library Position 'Backwards' *Copyright holder should not have to opt-out*

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., August 25, 2005 -- Text and Academic Authors Association Immediate Past President Michael Sullivan called Google's plan to give publishers and other copyright holders the option of opting out of the company's Library Print Project, which involves scanning a significant portion of five major libraries and placing them on searchable servers around the world, "backwards" and in conflict with both the spirit and the law of copyright.

"One of the tenets of copyright law in the United States is to serve as a protection for unauthorized reproduction and distribution of an author's intellectual work product," he said. "The authority to grant reproduction or distribution rights lies with the copyright holder, not with the person or organization seeking to exploit the work."

Google is putting the burden on publishers and other copyright holders to opt-out of having their works digitized and placed in the online library, an "onerous requirement" said Richard T. Hull, TAA's executive director, for authors of textbooks and academic works, many of whom hold copyright to at least some of their works, to have to contact Google in order to restrict unauthorized exploitation of their copyrighted works for Google's private benefit.

If Google wants to make these copies, said Hull, it should seek permission and pay a reasonable fee as anyone else would. "Authors and publishers have economic interests that should not be circumvented," he said. "While we applaud the general idea behind increasing access to our work, Google must respect the interests of authors and publishers while pursuing its own. The use that Google proposes is not an excused fair use in any recognized sense of the doctrine."

Sullivan said that while TAA supports access to copyrighted works, it firmly upholds the position that only the copyright holder can authorize the type of access that Google seeks.

The Text and Academic Authors Association, based in St. Petersburg, Florida, is a member organization of textbook and academic authors who strive to create quality educational and scholarly materials. www.TAAonline.net

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