AALL Committee Activities and Action Plan

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Committee Name: Copyright Committee

Committee Charge:

The Committee shall monitor developments and shall inform and advise the Executive Board and the Government Relations Office on copyright and other intellectual property matters. In addition, the Committee shall inform the membership of notable intellectual property policy issues and other relevant matters, and provide educational opportunities and tools for the membership in copyright law.

The Committee shall coordinate with the Government Relations Office to communicate Association views on copyright and other intellectual property issues to all levels of government. The Committee may, in accordance with Committee and Association policy, work with the AALL Government Relations Office to prepare and communicate Association positions to appropriate governmental bodies and to other interested groups, while keeping the President and the Executive Board informed of all such efforts. The manner of communication shall be determined by the Chair, the Government Relations Director and the President on critical issues.

Major Activities for 2012-2013:

2012-13 Copyright Committee members: Tracy Thompson-Przylucki (Chair), Meg Kribble (Vice-Chair), Amy Ash, Alicia Brillon, D.R. Jones, Kelly Leong, Lucy Cirici-Gonzalez (Board Liaison), Emily Feltren (Staff Liaison), Elizabeth Holland (Staff Liaison)

The Copyright Committee has been very active and engaged in 2012-2013. We started by implementing a sub-committee structure within the group to help achieve our goals. The sub-committees are Education, Current Awareness and Web Curation. Monthly conference calls of the Committee have helped to keep us on track.

(AALL Strategic Directions Goal II – Education) The Education Subcommittee, composed of Alicia Brillon and Kelly Leong, successfully developed an Annual Meeting Program for 2013 that will explore the ways in which digital images legally can be used in media (websites, marketing materials, etc.) within the current copyright regime. This promises to be a lively program with a panel composed of two Seattle-based, practicing copyright attorneys and four librarians sharing their real-life experiences and concerns regarding the use of images. This subcommittee is also considering implementing an annual webinar on a copyright hot topic with funding through the AALL/Bloomberg CPE grants.

(AALL Strategic Directions Goal III – Advocacy) The Current Awareness Subcommittee, with Amy Ash, Meg Kribble and me, focused on advocacy and communicating with members about important copyright issues. We accomplished this through blog postings, one-pagers and issues briefs. One of the most important pieces of work from the Copyright Committee this year has been working with the Government Relations Office staff to draft an AALL reply to the Copyright Office's Notice of Inquiry Concerning Orphan Works and Mass Digitization. The response, drafted largely by Meg Kribble, can be found at http://aallnet.org/Documents/Government-Relations/Formal-Statements/2013/NOIcomments020113.pdf. The Committee also spent time exploring the First Sale Doctrine and its impact on libraries in light of Kirtsaeng v. Wiley. Members of the Committee published an issue brief on the Kirtsaeng case, which can be found at http://aallnet.org/Documents/Government-Relations/Issue-Briefs-and-Reports/2012/ibkirtsaeng.pdf. In light of Kirtsaeng, we recommended, and the AALL Board agreed, that the Association should join the Owners' Rights Initiative. The ORI advocates for the protection of the Doctrine, which is in the best interest of libraries.

The Web Curation subcommittee has been deeply engaged in reorganizing and presenting the content of copyright information on the AALLnet site. Again, working with the Government Relations Office, this subcommittee has made good strides toward providing access to the work of the Association related to Copyright. Subcommittee members Kevin Miles and D. R. Jones, working closely with GRO's Emily Feltren and Elizabeth Holland, have done yeomen's work in this regard. They have reviewed all of the disparate pieces of copyright-related content and come up with a framework for structuring it so that it is readily accessible.
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discussible to various user populations. Most of the top-level work of this group will be accomplished before the end of the FY.

Proposed Activities for 2013-2014:

When Meg Kribble takes over as Committee Chair for next year, much of the work we have started will continue. With the web content restructured and organized, it will be incumbent on the committee to continue updating and weeding the copyright content. The Committee will also develop program proposals for the 2014 Annual Meeting and consider opportunities outside of the Annual Meeting for continuing education.

Fair use, orphan works and first sale will continue to be hot topics for the Committee to actively monitor and respond to as necessary. Kirtsaeng will be decided and the Google Books Settlement is still live. Staying abreast of the issues and communicating to AALL membership will be ongoing roles for the Committee. Working closely with GRO and continuing to serve an advocacy function with respect to intellectual property issues will be important.