

March 21, 2007

Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: H.R. 1201, The FAIR USE Act

Dear Representative:

The Library Copyright Alliance (LCA) strongly supports the introduction of the Freedom And Innovation Revitalizing U.S. Entrepreneurship (FAIR USE) Act of 2007, H.R. 1201. We respectfully request that you join Congressman Rick Boucher (D-VA), Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) and Congressman John Doolittle (R-CA) in co-sponsoring this important legislation.

LCA consists of five major library associations -- the American Association of Law Libraries, the American Library Association, the Association of Research Libraries, the Medical Library Association, and the Special Libraries Association. These five associations collectively represent over 140,000 libraries in the United States employing over 350,000 librarians and other personnel. Every year, these libraries purchase several billion dollars worth of books and other copyrighted material.

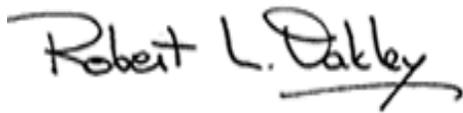
At the end of 2006, Dr. Billington, the Librarian of Congress, approved six exemptions from the prohibition on circumvention of technological measures contained in section 1201 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). These exemptions will sunset in three years. The FAIR USE Act makes these six exemptions permanent. Two of these exemptions are particularly important to the library community: the exemptions for screen readers for the visually impaired and for film clip compilations for college media studies classes. By making these exemptions permanent, the FAIR USE Act will ensure that these important activities can continue in the future and that valuable resources will not be wasted in renewing the exemptions every three years.

Additionally, the FAIR USE Act would extend the determinations of the Librarian of Congress in six narrow circumstances. For example, the FAIR USE Act would extend the film clip exemption to all classrooms instead of just college media studies classes. It would allow access to public domain works, as well as works of substantial public interest.

Finally, The FAIR USE Act would permit a library to circumvent technological protections for the purpose of preservation of works in a library's collection. Preservation of our cultural and scientific heritage is one of a library's most critical functions. Unfortunately, the DMCA is interfering with libraries' ability to preserve such works. The FAIR USE Act will eliminate this obstacle, without causing any harm to copyright owners.

We urge you to co-sponsor the FAIR USE Act. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have about the importance of this legislation to America's libraries.

Respectfully,



Robert Oakley
American Association of Law Libraries



Miriam Nisbet
American Library Association



Prudence S. Adler
Association of Research Libraries



Carla Funk
Medical Library Association



Doug Newcomb
Special Libraries Association



American Association of Law Libraries

MAXIMIZING THE POWER OF THE LAW LIBRARY COMMUNITY SINCE 1966

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) is a nonprofit educational organization with over 5,000 members nationwide. AALL's mission is to promote and enhance the value of law libraries to the legal and public communities, to foster the profession of law librarianship, and to provide leadership in the field of legal information and information policy.

<http://www.aall.org/>

Contact: Mary Alice Baish (202-662-9200)



The American Library Association (ALA) is a nonprofit educational organization of over 66,000 librarians, library trustees, and other friends of libraries dedicated to improving library services and promoting the public interest in a free and open information society.

<http://www.ala.org/>

Contact: Miriam Nisbet (202-628-8410)



Association
of Research
Libraries

The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) is a nonprofit organization of 123 research libraries in North America. ARL's members include university libraries, public libraries, government and national libraries. Its mission is to shape and influence forces affecting the future of research libraries in the process of scholarly communication. ARL programs and services promote equitable access to and effective uses of recorded knowledge in support of teaching, research, scholarship and community service. <http://www.arl.org/>

Contact: Prue Adler (202-296-2296)



The Medical Library Association (MLA), a nonprofit, educational organization, is a leading advocate for health sciences information professionals with more than 4,700 members worldwide. Through its programs and services, MLA provides lifelong educational opportunities, supports a knowledgebase of health information research, and works with a global network of partners to promote the importance of quality information for improved health to the health care community and the public. <http://www.mlanet.org/>

Contact: Carla Funk (312-419-9094 x.14)



The Special Libraries Association (SLA) is a nonprofit global organization for innovative information professionals and their strategic partners. SLA serves more than 12,000 members in 83 countries in the information profession, including corporate, academic and government information specialists. SLA promotes and strengthens its members through learning, advocacy and networking initiatives. <http://www.sla.org/>

Contact: Doug Newcomb (703-647-4923)