

INTRODUCTION

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Guest Editor



This issue originated with a "call" for Guest Editors that appeared in *Focus on Indiana Libraries*.

One of my primary areas of research is intellectual property law. Initially, I hesitated in even preparing a proposal, wondering whether this topic would be of interest to the Indiana library community. A meeting with the ILF Publications Committee proved that this concern was unfounded and that there was strong support for an issue that would highlight the impact of copyright, trademark, and patent law on library services and operations.

My premise for the issue is that all librarians need to know something about intellectual property law. Copyright law has moved to the forefront of library management, with the Internet and other technologies impacting a variety of library operations, including interlibrary loan, web site creation, collection development, electronic reserves, and database access. However, there are other reasons for librarians to be aware of intellectual property law. Support for technology transfer will be an important role of academic librarians in the future. According to a recent press release from the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM), "more than \$33.5 billion in economic activity and 280,000 jobs are directly attributable to the commercialization of academic research in 1998."¹ Public librarians may be asked questions about searching and applying for trademarks and patents, as public libraries become even more crucial resources for entrepreneurs and small businesses. Special librarians, particularly those in the corporate arena, must always stay current on intellectual property law matters. School librarians, academic librarians, and media specialists must be aware of changes in copyright law, particularly as their institutions become more involved in the development of multimedia, web-based curricula, and distance learning. Teachers, faculty members, and administrators may turn to the librarian in these settings for the latest

in copyright information. Librarians in all

types of libraries have the unique opportunity to educate their users about intellectual property law, particularly copyright. Through this education, librarians may be helping their organizations to avoid litigation, dispelling myths that everything on the Internet is public domain and that proper citation is enough to satisfy copyright law.

For this issue, I first invited librarians from around the state with expertise in intellectual property matters to contribute articles. A "call for papers" appeared in *Focus*. This methodology generated interesting and practical articles on e-reserves, copyright in collection development, patent searching, and trademark searching. Kenneth Crews graciously contributed an article on the history of the Copyright Management Center at IUPUI. Then the direction for the issue became more expansive. I attended the Midwestern Intellectual Property Law Symposium in August and heard a number of outstanding presentations on the development of automated systems for better processing of patent, trademark, and copyright applications, as well as on the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. Even though the timeframe was short, Fred Cate, Indiana University School of Law – Bloomington, Craig Morris, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and Mary Levering, U.S. Copyright Office, readily agreed to provide articles based on their presentations from the Symposium.

I hope this issue helps you to better understand the intricacies of intellectual property law and how they affect our services and our patrons.

NOTE

1. Academic Research Drives U.S. Economy. Press Release, Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM). December 2, 1999.