



**Association for Educational  
Communications & Technology**

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September 3, 1996

Ivan Bender  
Lisa Livingston  
Co-Chairs, Educational Multimedia  
Fair Use Guideline Development Committee

Dear Mr. Bender and Ms. Livingston:

For the past eighteen months, my association has met with you and other associations representing educators and copyright owners for the purpose of creating fair use guidelines for educational multimedia. These guidelines are designed to be used by educators and students when they create their own multimedia projects.

As you know, the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT), is the largest national association representing educational media and instructional technology professionals working in K-12 and higher education today. These guidelines are of critical importance to our members. They work with faculty and students each day integrating technology into the curriculum. Questions regarding the fair use of copyright materials as they create new learning materials and projects are common and frequently difficult to answer under the guidelines contained in the Copyright Act of 1976. These guidelines cover areas and applications that were not in existence when the current law was enacted. These guidelines clearly demonstrate to faculty and students to clearly understand what is a permissible fair use and will allow them to incorporate these materials into their projects, such as student's electronic portfolios.

The creation of fair use guidelines involves the development of a series of compromises inasmuch as fair use does not have a precise definition in the copyright law or in the courts themselves. We feel these guidelines are a positive development in that they provide a sense of direction in an area of technology that is just now developing, yet has already become such an important part of the teaching and learning process. It is clear to us that without these guidelines educators and students who develop multimedia projects are inhibited in their efforts and copyright proprietors are similarly negatively impacted.

We appreciate having the opportunity to be part of the negotiating committee and are pleased to be able to add our association's name to the list of other organizations that formally approve of the fair use guidelines for educational multimedia with the understanding that you will be seeking Congressional approval of the guidelines and not recommending any amendment to the law itself.

Cordially,

  
Stanley D. Zenor  
Executive Director

SBZ/kj

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International Computing & Instructional Technology Exposition

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