



14 May 1997

Cameron Kitchin
American Association of Museums
1575 Eye St. N.W., Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20005
FAX 202 289 6578

Peter N. Fowler
CONFU Facilitator, Attorney-Advisor
Office of Legislative and International Affairs
U.S. Patent & Trademarks Office
Box 4
Washington, D.C. 20531
FAX 703 305 8885

Dear Mr. Kitchin and Mr. Fowler:

We, the undersigned, are the five members of the current Executive Board of the Association of Architecture School Librarians (AASL), a voluntary organization composed primarily of practicing architecture librarians at colleges and universities throughout the United States and Canada. Some of us, just like many members of our larger organization, have direct administrative responsibility not just for libraries of print materials but also for slide collections for architecture and related fields. Virtually all of us have close working relationships with visual resources librarians and curators at our various institutions. And as members of AASL we are all dedicated to supporting the advancement of architectural education.

We are writing to you to express our opposition to CONFU's Proposal for Educational Fair Use Guidelines for Digital Images (as it is stated in Appendix H of CONFU's Interim Report to the Commissioner - December 1996). We find that we are in general agreement with the many other professional library and education associations which have expressed opposition to these guidelines and, in particular, with our affiliate organization the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) whose Executive Board adopted the recommendation of their Public Policy Committee not to endorse these same guidelines.

Permit us to mention briefly a few of main reasons for our opposition. We agree that it would be premature to endorse these guidelines given the rapidly changing and developing

technology that affects the production and distribution of digital images. We agree with the ARLIS/NA Public Policy Committee that "unreasonable and unworkable responsibility for determining copyright ownership," as described in Section 5 of the CONFU proposal, "may impact negatively on education." Some of our members are from relatively small institutions with relatively small staffs, for whom the procedures described in Section 5 would be burdensome and prohibitive. We are in general sensitive to any hindrances and barriers to reaping the great potential benefits of new technology for resource sharing and for new economics of collection development and thus for the improvement of architectural education at institutions large and small. Again, we agree that the proposed guidelines, while being put forward as "merely" guidelines, are indeed likely, if endorsed, to be viewed as having considerable legal force. Thus, given our reservations and concerns about the proposed guidelines, such as those just stated, we find that we must oppose them.

We do also appreciate the difficulty of CONFU's task, by the way. And we appreciate your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Ann Scott, President, AASL
Assistant Librarian
Weigel Library of Architecture, Planning and Design
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506

Kathy Demsky, Vice-President/President-Elect, AASL
Librarian, Architecture Resource Center
Andrews University
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Kathy Brackney, Treasurer, AASL
Architecture Librarian
Georgia Institute of Technology
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Joon Mornes, Secretary, AASL
Architecture Librarian
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Wayne Meyer, Past President, AASL
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