



Special Libraries Association

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February 19, 1997

Mr. Peter N. Fowler  
Patent and Trademark Office  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Mr. Fowler:

On behalf of the 15,000 members of the Special Libraries Association (SLA), I am pleased to inform you of SLA's endorsement of the guidelines developed and recently approved by the Conference on Fair Use (ConFU). SLA staff has been very satisfied with the development process over the last two years, and your involvement has been greatly appreciated.

The SLA Board of Directors approved the guidelines for Digital Images, Distance Learning, and Educational Multimedia. The Statement on Use of Copyrighted Computer Programs (Software) in Libraries was also endorsed. Ultimately, we will publicize and recommend these guidelines to the thousands of information professionals who make up the SLA membership. Given the constantly changing nature of the digital environment, I urge the Patent and Trademark Office to support a continuing dialogue on these and other crucial issues regarding fair use. In particular, SLA is hopeful that talks on Electronic Reserves and Interlibrary Loans will proceed.

My sincere thanks to you and your colleagues for guiding the ConFU participants to the completion of this crucial endeavor. Let's work together to ensure that the deliberations continue.

Sincerely,

David R. Bender, Ph.D.

cc: Cameron Kitchin, American Association of Museums  
Laura N. Gasaway, University of North Carolina  
Lisa Livingston, City University of New York

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