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The Register of Copyrights
of the
United States of America

September 4, 1996

Library of Congress
Department 17
Washington, D.C. 20540

(202) 707-835

Dear Lisa and Ivan:

First, congratulations on completing a most difficult and important project—namely the creation of new fair use guidelines for the creation of multimedia projects by educators and students who use portions of lawfully acquired copyrighted works. The Consortium of College and University Media Centers (CCUMC) deserves a great deal of credit for its efforts in initiating as well as coordinating the process of lengthy negotiations that have led to the "Educational Multimedia Fair Use Guidelines."

I also congratulate the participating organizations and their representatives for their efforts and for the compromises they made. I include Mary Levering, Associate Register for National Copyright Programs, who served as a resource person in all of the discussions and negotiations over the past two years. I know you found her contributions extremely helpful, and the Copyright Office was pleased to assist in this way.

I believe that experience has demonstrated that guidelines do assist organizations and individuals who wish to comply with the copyright law, and these new multimedia guidelines should be most helpful to educators and educational institutions as they use new technology for teaching and learning purposes.

As you know, the Copyright Office is the office charged with the administration of the copyright law; to that end, we register claims to copyright and record documents as well as collect and distribute statutory license fees and oversee the copyright arbitration royalty panels. The Office also provides information services to the public and technical assistance to the Congress and the Executive Branch agencies. As such, we cannot formally endorse guidelines. Nevertheless, I believe you know how we feel about them—we brought your efforts to the attention of Congressional leaders and urged inclusion of the adopted multimedia guidelines in an appropriate Judiciary Committee report.

I wish you well in your continued efforts.

Sincerely,

Marybeth Egan
Register of Copyrights

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