

AAASS Bibliography and Documentation Committee  
Subcommittee on Copyright Issues  
Report for 38th AAASS Annual Convention  
Washington, D.C.  
November 16-19, 2006

**Purpose.** The Bibliography and Documentation Committee on Copyright Issues is dedicated to education and training in copyright for Slavic and East European material for the benefit of librarians and scholars in the field of Slavic and East European studies.

**Membership.** The current members of the B&D Subcommittee on Copyright Issues are Michael Brewer (University of Arizona) (2005-2007), Steve Corrsin (New York Public Library) (2005-2007), Janet Crayne (University of Michigan) (2007-2008), Janice Pilch (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) (2005-2007), Karen Rondstvedt (Stanford University) (2007-2008), and Cathy Zeljak (George Washington University) (2005-2006). Cathy Zeljak's term will end this year, and Jared Ingersoll (Columbia University) and Kevin Hawkins (University of Michigan) will join the committee in January 2007 for three-year terms (2007-2009). The group is chaired by Janice Pilch.

**Meetings.** The working group formed in April 2003, and became an official subcommittee in June 2005. The group meets annually at AAASS conferences and members communicate by e-mail and telephone at other times during the year.

**Activity.** The group is involved with several projects, directed toward education and current awareness on copyright issues for Slavic and East European materials in the library and academic communities. The subcommittee serves as a resource for copyright information, provides non-legal assistance with copyright questions, and promotes ongoing study of copyright developments.

**Website.** This year the group set up a basic website to provide direction on copyright for Slavic and East European material. It contains a statement on copyright for librarians, scholars, and educators; an education and current awareness section, providing links to other resources, including Janice's 2005 AAASS roundtable presentation on "Digital Copyright: Practical Approaches;" a copyright assistance section, providing contact information for committee members and inviting queries on copyright for Slavic materials; and a section on news and events. The site will be developed as an ongoing committee project. Michael Brewer is managing the website at the University of Arizona. After some final revisions, it will go live during the week of November 19.

We expect to expand the site to include a flow chart on approaching copyright for Slavic materials, and a more comprehensive list of resources from among the following categories: websites, organizations, institutions, individuals, conferences, publications, online/subscription databases, electronic discussion groups, and copyright workshops and tutorials.

**Copyright queries.** The group continues to play an important role as an ongoing resource for individuals with copyright queries on Slavic and international copyright. As of November 9, 2006 committee members, primarily Janice Pilch, had fielded 150 copyright queries by e-mail, telephone, listserv, and onsite at the University of Illinois, for colleagues in the field as well as library users, scholars, and individuals from the U.S. and U.K. As evidence of the increasing need

for such activity, the figures show that 34 queries were completed from April 2003-November 2004, 54 from November 2004-November 2005, and 62 from November 2005-November 2006.

**2006 AAASS Program.** The subcommittee organized a panel on “International Copyright Law and the Post-Communist World,” held on November 16, 2006:

Chair: Karen Rondestvedt (Stanford University)

Presenters: Matthew Skelton (U.S. Copyright Office)-- “International Copyright: Perspectives from the U.S. Copyright Office”

Janice Pilch (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)--“International Copyright: Perspectives from the Academic Library”

Michael Newcity (Duke University)--“International Copyright: Perspectives on the Law of the Russian Federation”

Discussant: Michael Brewer (University of Arizona)

**2007 AAASS Program.** The group will propose a panel for the 2007 AAASS conference, on copyright in images, audiovisual resources and special formats.

**Copyright permissions project.** The group will conduct a project for ascertaining the viability of collective rights management organizations in Slavic and East European countries, and the realities of seeking copyright permissions from individual publishers, authors, and other copyright holders who are often difficult to identify and locate. The project was expected to take place last year and has been delayed. It will begin in December and will run through Summer 2007.

**Communications with other national copyright committees.** Members of the subcommittee have had active communication with the American Library Association (ALA) Washington Office, Office of Information Technology Policy Copyright Advisory Subcommittee, which implemented a national copyright advisory network in 2004, for the purpose of expanding knowledge and discussion of library copyright issues. Two members of the B&D subcommittee serve on the ALA subcommittee: Janice Pilch and Michael Brewer. Members of ALA subcommittee advance copyright education through projects and programs at ALA conferences, and they actively participate in the national copyright advisory network. The liaison work between B&D and ALA contributes to the ALA effort and enhances the role of the AAASS committee.

Janice Pilch also participated in the Section 108 public roundtable held in Washington, DC on March 16, 2006, as a representative of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and submitted written comments to the Section 108 Study Group on behalf of the University, presenting information on the international dimensions of proposed amendments. The Section 108 Study Group, sponsored by the Library of Congress National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP) and the U.S. Copyright Office, convened in April 2005 to examine the exceptions and limitations available to libraries and archives under Section 108 of the Copyright Act and to consider possible changes to meet the needs of cultural institutions in the digital environment. Library groups are deeply involved in the process. Janice is also a member of a group sponsored by the Association of Research Libraries and the ALA Office for Information Technology Policy, that has worked since June 2006 on a white paper concerning Section 108.

***Ongoing training in copyright issues.*** Members of the subcommittee have been educating themselves on copyright issues to gain the necessary expertise to carry out the group's efforts. Members have spent significant time has been spent this year researching and learning more about international and U.S. copyright law, in order to prepare website materials. Committee members will continue to pursue opportunities for training in copyright to increase the pool of specialists in the field.

Submitted by:

Janice T. Pilch, Chair  
AAASS Bibliography and Documentation Subcommittee on Copyright Issues  
November 10, 2006