

Question Board

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Copyright!

Action

Posted by [Mesut Duran](#) on Wednesday, May 24th, 2006 11:55 AM

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Dear Class:

This is to start our second online discussion. This discussion will focus on copyright issue regarding the use of Internet-based electronic resources. Your task in this discussion is to identify at least 5 educators or education students and conduct a short interview with them regarding the issues addressed in "Digital Images and Copyright" article. Use the following guiding questions in your interview to identify how well they are informed/educated/aware of the copyright issue:

What is "authorship"?
What is "fair use"?
What is "creative commons"?
What is "works in public domain"?
What is "proper attribution"?

Share your findings and reflect on what was interesting, surprising, disappointing in your findings.

Deadline to participate in this discussion is June 5th.

Thanks,
Mesut.

Posted by [Irma Crespo](#) on Sunday, June 4th, 2006 1:30 AM

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The findings in this task are noteworthy but neither surprising nor disappointing. Despite the limitations in terms of statistical representation, the two educators and the three education students made it significant: there is definitely awareness but not fluent know-how of the copyright laws. Regardless of the swift exchange in the information highway, the volatile nature of technology has made it difficult for copyright laws to keep up with the repercussions of its changes. Thus, it is not surprising that there is insufficient familiarity of copyright terminologies in the use of digital data and images among consumers. These realizations erased the disappointments at the beginning of the assignment.

The level of awareness referred to in the findings is characterized by the fact that the respondents mainly defined "authorship" for ownership of one's work; "fair use" was thought of as basically utilizing somebody else's work without proprietary gain; "works in public domain" was equated with any information, creative or factual, which are freely available for use; and "proper attribution" was known to them as appropriate citation. There was a misconceived idea for the phrase "Creative Commons". They were not aware of the organization nor the related website affiliated with it. In addition to these, the percentage of digital data or image consumption or usage was a vital piece they were not really conscious of. Generally, for them, copyright or not, proper citation is important.

Upon reading the objectives set by Creative Commons, I completely support them for trying to bridge the void between authors' rights to protect their intellectual possessions and the consumers use for educational consumption. Striking a balance is a gray matter. For educators and would-be educators, I believe that when in doubt, the least we can do is promote the ethical practice of proper attribution.

In this day and age of electronic communication, a Greek philosopher's motto still applies: "Give what is due to others." In this regard, give credit to whom it is due.

