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To: Julie L. Sigall
Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

Date: 03/07/2005

From: Jim Lawrence
Title: Custom Publishing Manager
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Comment:

I have been clearing thousands of copyright permissions every semester at Cornell University for over 13 years.

Tracking down copyright holders is a huge time-consuming process that often ends in a dead end. Publishers take weeks to respond to permission requests, and many times they respond with what are called "re-directs" - which mean that they don't hold the rights - but the rights have been reverted to another person or agency.

The Copyright Clearance Center (www.copyright.com) is a good agency that clears about half of our permissions, but the other half we have to go direct to publishers and authors, and it is terrible.

Look at Canada - they have a "CanCopy" service that could be duplicated in the U.S.

We have a "Can'tCopy" attitude here in the U.S., and it is hurting our Education system, by making it costly and time-consuming for educators across the country.

Another result of the painful process of clearing permissions is that now publishers are charging outrageous royalties for education classroom use. Our average here at Cornell is around \$0.14 per page per copy!! I think this is anti-productive to our educational system in the U.S.

Please contact me with any questions - I have been doing this for a long time!
Jim Lawrence
Cornell University Bookstore