



ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES

November 11, 2010

Ms. Tracey L. Armstrong
President and Chief Executive Officer
Copyright Clearance Center
222 Rosewood Drive
Danvers, MA 01923

Dear Ms. Armstrong:

On behalf of the Association of Research Libraries, I am writing to express our deep disappointment with the decision by the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) to underwrite 50% of the plaintiffs' costs in the litigation by three publishers against Georgia State University. We learned of the CCC's action in the recent ruling by Judge Orinda Evans of the Federal District Court in Atlanta.

As the CCC notes on its website, the not-for-profit organization was founded "by a collaboration of content creators, content publishers, and content users." The CCC also notes that it "serves the interests of those who supply content as well as those who use it." Balancing the interests of these communities can be a challenging task, and many efforts have been made over the years to that end with the understanding that collaboration is a far more successful strategy. Unfortunately, this action by the CCC signals to the content user community that the CCC no longer seeks to serve the interests of all of the partners in the scholarly communications enterprise.

We write in hopes that the CCC will seriously reconsider, going forward, its role and participation in litigation against members of the academic community.

Sincerely,

Charles B. Lowry
Executive Director
Association of Research Libraries