

Copyright Office Issues Report on Distance Education and Copyright Law

As mandated in 1998's Digital Millennium Copyright Act (H.R. 2281), the U.S. Copyright Office has issued "Copyright and Digital Distance Education" (www.loc.gov/copyright/disted/). The 348-page report surveys the practical and legal issues about distance education and concludes with a consideration of whether copyright law should be changed to permit best instructional use of digital technologies. Basing its conclusions on extensive research, comments received during hearings, and input from members of affected groups, the report's authors concluded copyright law should be modified to expand performance exceptions for educational uses of copyrighted materials and include safeguards to minimize risks of uncontrolled digital copying and distribution. The report also calls for preparation of a judicial history of "fair use" and an affirmation that the right is "technology neutral."

Little Good News Concerning Federal Declassification Efforts

May was generally a bad month for declassification. On May 11, Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson announced that his agency would not be able to meet an April 2000 deadline for declassification of all but its most sensitive records over 25 years old. Executive Order 12958 gives federal agencies five years, beginning in 1995, to review and release or reclassify its old records. Richardson claimed Energy needed an additional 18 months and may reconceive its declassification program following the discovery of major security breaches involving computer records at Los Alamos National Laboratory. On May 24, the House Armed Services Committee voted out an authorization bill containing a \$20 million cap for Defense Department declassification activities. Defense estimates it spends \$200 million a year on declassification. The defense appropriation bill approved in the Senate does not contain a cap, but does have language introduced by Trent Lott (R-MS) calling for page-by-page reviews of most of the hundreds of thousands of documents already released pursuant to E.O. 12958. A solitary piece of good news came from the State Department, which announced that it will complete its classification review by April 2000. To date, State has released about 97% of the nearly 49 million pages it has reviewed.

Faculty at Ohio State Schools Denied Right to Negotiate Workload

Pending further U.S. Supreme Court review of a 1993 Ohio law requiring "the Ohio board of regents jointly with all state universities . . . [to] develop standards for instructional workloads," faculty at state-funded universities in Ohio will no longer be able to collectively negotiate their workloads. The Ohio State Supreme Court struck down the law because a section placing workloads off-limits for collective bargain was found to violate faculty members' right to equal protection (83 Ohio St. 3d 229, 699 N. E. 2d 463; 1998). In short, the Ohio court found that the state had no compelling reason to deny faculty a right enjoyed by most Ohio state employees. In granting a writ of certiorari in *Central State University v. American Association of University Professors, Central State University Chapter* (98-1071), the Supreme Court overturned the earlier decision and agreed to issue its own ruling regarding whether the Ohio legislature was justified in restricting faculty's collective bargain rights in order to achieve the publicly desirable end of having professors spend more time teaching. No evidence produced during previous cases has shown a link between collective bargaining and decreased instructional time.

People on the Move

Craig Calhoun, chair of the sociology department at New York University and editor of the journal *Sociological Theory*, has been named the new president of the Social Science Research Council. **A. Lee Fritschler**, president of Dickinson College, has been appointed assistant secretary for postsecondary education in the U.S. Department of Education.

historically, politically, culturally—and we would be remiss to discount those differences.

APSA Congressional Fellows are given a rare opportunity each year to fully explore and, I think, to appreciate these differences between the United States and Canada. Time has proven there is an undeniable value to allowing young journalists working for newspapers and television stations outside of Washington, political scientists who often return to teaching jobs at colleges across the country, and other professionals on both sides of the beltway to gain an insider's understanding of the congressional process. It only stands to reason these same individuals are better off for participating in a comparative study of two widely replicated models for governing, and for taking the time to view the United States from the perspective of a neighbor of whom it has enjoyed the dubious privilege of taking for granted.