

ARLIS/NA
Art Libraries Society of North America

4101 Lake Boone Trail, Suite 201
Raleigh, North Carolina 27607
919-787-5181; 800-89-ARLIS
FAX: 919-787-4916

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Ref: *Reply Comment*

**Digital Millenium Copyright Act, Distance Education, Section 403
Promotion of Distance Education Through Digital Technologies
Federal Register Notice - 63 FR 71167 Docket No. 98-12A**

Sayuri Rajapakse, Attorney-Advisor
Office of Policy and International Affairs
U.S. Copyright Office, Copyright GC/I&R
P.O. Box 70400, Southwest Station
Washington, D.C. 20024
E-mail: disted@loc.gov

Dear Sayuri Rajapakse,

The ARLIS/NA Public Policy Committee is writing this Reply Comment on behalf of the **Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA)** to record our endorsement of several of the Written Comments previously submitted in support of "balanced" copyright law in the dynamic and developing area of Distance Education.

As a professional organization of architecture and art librarians, visual resources professionals, artists, curators, educators, publishers and others interested in visual arts information, ARLIS/NA is particularly concerned that current copyright legislation acknowledge the need for intellectual property law and policy to strike a balance between the rights of copyright owners/holders and the preservation of fair use and access to digital information.

We believe that the best approach to updating the **Copyright Act of 1976** is for the **Digital Millenium Copyright Act** to meet the challenges of the digital environment by including provisions which safeguard policies and practices vital for the continued use

of the considerable wealth of art library collections today and tomorrow. We believe that this balance must also be maintained in the electronic frontier of Distance Education, a highly evolving environment encompassing a range of multimedia resources deliverable via various media.

ARLIS/NA membership includes many who participate in the organizations listed below that have responded to this call for comment, and it whole-heartedly supports their Written Comments on the important specific issues of: 1.) Nature of Distance Education; 2.) Role of Licensing and 3.) Application of Copyright Law in Distance Education:

- **Association of Research Libraries, American Library Association, American Association of Law Libraries, Special Libraries Association, Medical Library Association** (Written Comment #48)
- **Howard Besser**, Associate Professor, UCLA School of Education & Information Systems, Associate Adjunct Professor (Written Comment #42);
- **College Art Association** (Written Comment #18);
- **Society of American Archivists** (Written Comment #13);
- **Visual Resources Association** (Written Comment #15);

In closing, ARLIS/NA supports the development of copyright legislation that will preserve the health and welfare of our educational and cultural institutions -- libraries, archives and visual collections -- for the benefit of our patrons, now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Katherine Poole
Chair, ARLIS/NA Public Policy Committee
Librarian, Rotch Visual Collections
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
77 Massachusetts Avenue, 7-304
Cambridge, MA 02139-4307
(617) 253-7098; FAX 617-258-7841
kkpoole@mit.edu