

Anne-Ogdin-Carol -20050225133006

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

Date: 02/25/2005

From: Carol Anne Ogdin

Comment:

The classical paper on planning "Dilemmas in a General Theory of Planning" (Rittel & Webber) was published in the journal Policy Sciences in 1973. That journal has passed through several ownerships, and the current publishers (Elsevier) and the predecessor (Kluwer) not only don't even KNOW if they own the copyright (probably due to defective contracts), but are not willing to engage in the research.

As a Planning official, and a member of the American Planning Association, I have been encouraging the association to put the paper on their website, for all to read, for the indefinite future. I have secured the written permission of the sole surviving author (Webber), but the association doesn't want to expose itself to potential litigation from any source. So, this important and seminal work remains out of sight of new students and professionals.

With a legitimate "orphan copyright" rule, we could help educate future generations.