SMITH & METALITZ LLP

ERIC H. SMITH
STEVEN J. METALITZ
ERIC J. SCHWARTZ
MARIA STRONG

MICHAEL SCHLESINGER

DR. MIHÁLY FICSOR
International Legal Consultant
(Not admitted to the D.C. Bar; resident in Hungary)

June 15, 2006

David O. Carson, Esq.
General Counsel
United States Copyright Office
Copyright GC/I&R
P.O. Box 70400
Southwest Station
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Carson:

I appreciate this opportunity to respond, on behalf of the Joint Reply Commenters, to your letter of May 31, providing follow-up questions from the March 29 hearing. These questions both relate to the existing exemption regarding e-books.

Your first question asks "To what extent has this exemption been used since October 28, 2003?"

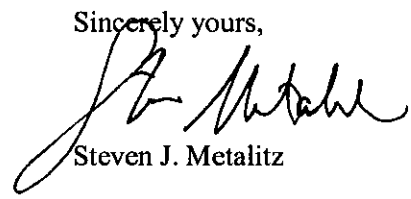
The Joint Reply Commenters have no information responsive to this question.

The second question asks "whether, since October 28, 2003, e-book publishers have changed their practices with respect to enabling use of the read-aloud function and/or enable the use of screen readers for e-books."

While the competitive marketplace for ebooks continues to evolve in response to positive consumer experiences and the development of new platform options and features, we have no new information to provide regarding publisher practices in enabling the use of the read-aloud function and/or enabling the use of screen readers for ebooks since the conclusion of the second triennial DMCA rulemaking in 2003. To the best of our knowledge, publishers that generally enabled one or more of these functions in 2003 continue to do so today.

Please let me know if you have further questions arising from this hearing.

Sincerely yours,



Steven J. Metalitz

cc: Jonathan Band
Alan M. Dinsmore

1747 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW, SUITE 825, WASHINGTON, DC 20006-4637 U.S.A.
PHONE: 202.833.4198 • FAX: 202.872.0546 • EMAIL: INFO@SMIMETLAW.COM • WEBSITE: WWW.SMIMETLAW.COM