

*Comments from Margaret Chase, regarding the topic of facilitating access to copyrighted works for “blind or other persons with disabilities” in connection with a forthcoming meeting of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights of the World Intellectual Property Organization.*

April 20, 2009

Dear Sirs:

I represent Central Kentucky Radio Eye, a radio reading service broadcasting the reading of newspapers and other literature for blind, visually impaired and physically disabled individuals in Central Kentucky.

Regarding your request for comments regarding copyright issues and limitations, I would like to share the following account.

This week, we received two telephone calls from listeners to our service who are both under Hospice care. The one said (and I'm paraphrasing) that he has been listening for several weeks and felt compelled to call and thank us for the great service we provide. He indicated he has little time left to live, and he has informed his family that in lieu of flowers at his funeral he is requesting donations to our radio reading service. The second caller said he has been listening since he has been in Hospice, and when he gets home (though this is doubtful) he wants to volunteer with our organization.

I am sharing this with you because it illustrates that (in addition to people who are blind and visually impaired) people who are very ill and/or physically disabled also want a connection to their community through access to the “printed world” of newspapers and other literature.

I would therefore like to suggest that consideration be given to such individuals and their limitations and access to printed materials. And that any copyright wording should include people who are blind, visually impaired, and physically disabled, and that physically disabled should include those individuals who are confined to hospices and hospitals through illness and injury. Thank You

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Chase  
Executive Director

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