

CSU, Chico Research Foundation, Meriam Library, California State University, Chico Regional Copyright Education Research Project - Phase One

Statement of Broad Need

The CSU, Chico Research Foundation is applying for a Laura Bush Community Catalyst grant for a Continuing Education project, and is requesting \$71,729 in IMLS funds. Library personnel grapple with copyright decisions on a regular basis and many feel unprepared to make these decisions¹. As library work increasingly encompasses open educational resources (OER), digital collections, electronic reserves, streaming media, scholarly publishing and non-traditional online educational opportunities, the volume and complexity of copyright decisions continue to expand. Significant strides have been made toward increasing access to high quality professional development around copyright. However, most of this activity is initiated and provided by institutions located on the East Coast; two of the most sustained and coordinated copyright education programs and communities of practice are the Library Copyright Institute² in North Carolina and the Copyright First Responders³ model developed at Harvard University in Massachusetts. Additionally, previous national-level surveys evaluating copyright literacy have focused on academic and public libraries.^{4,5}

Requiring cross-country travel either for participants or expert trainers is not a sustainable model for providing educational opportunities at scale. Western states are geographically larger and less densely populated, making it difficult to gather a significant number of personnel in one location. Additionally, travel may be restricted, either through proximity to services, financial support, or by legislative action. Educational opportunities and communities of practice are difficult to nurture when participants are isolated as the only “copyright librarian”, if any, in their library system, region, or state. Finally, library personnel in school, tribal, or special libraries face additional barriers to accessing specialized professional development or communities of practice.

This proposal combines four librarians with significant copyright expertise, representing geographically dispersed states in the West, with a research faculty member with focus group and survey expertise. Our project has the support and encouragement of other related initiatives, such as the organizers of the Library Copyright Institute, and Copyright First Responders, as well as organizations who will benefit from our results, including the Maricopa Millions OER project and Open Education Library Services in Oregon. Through this planning grant, we will identify the challenges faced by library personnel in this region to accessing copyright professional development opportunities and will investigate possible approaches to overcoming these challenges. The survey instrument will be shared openly to allow for reuse and modification by others throughout the U.S. This planning grant will inform future projects to develop regionally sensitive copyright professional development opportunities and communities.

¹ <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2014.03.009>

² <http://library.copyright.institute/>

³ <https://osc.hul.harvard.edu/programs/copyright/first-responders/>

⁴ <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2014.03.009>

⁵ <https://doi.org/10.1080/15228959.2016.1184997>

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Project Design

We will pilot a survey in late 2019 among library personnel in California, Arizona, and Oregon to refine the survey instrument, to ensure its validity and reliability, and to evaluate whether incentives impact the response rate for a wider survey. We will then distribute the updated survey to library personnel in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming in Fall 2020, using state and regional library association email lists, focused library association networks, and personal contacts. Lori Weber, an experienced social science research methodologist, and her graduate student class will administer the survey, compile the data, and draft a preliminary report. Using data from the survey, we will conduct targeted focus groups in Spring 2021 for public, academic, special, and school libraries, as well as individuals leading current copyright education programs. Further, we will include a focus group for personnel who have related copyright needs, such as open education coordinators, online learning initiatives, and instructional designers. We will complete a report including our methodology, lessons learned, and discussion of our findings by July 2021.

Diversity Plan

By actively communicating with library personnel at all types of libraries in the West, we seek to identify the barriers that prevent them from accessing copyright professional development opportunities and networks and that prevent them from providing services to their users that are equal to those in other parts of the country. We hope this planning grant will reveal possible interventions and educational opportunities that we can explore further in our next project to address these challenges and take steps towards a more equitable distribution of copyright expertise through development of regional resources.

Broad Impact

While the initial impact will focus on the Western states, we will develop a model instrument and process that can be expanded across the nation. The results of this initial project will inform plans for building community and creating formal and informal copyright professional development opportunities. We will share our findings widely with the library community through American Library Association (and subsidiary organizations) national and regional copyright and policy networks, conference presentations, published articles, and open access repositories. Our results will establish the foundation for our future project to facilitate the removal of barriers to copyright education and the development of effective regional communities of practice and copyright education models for library personnel.

Budget Summary

The total anticipated costs of the project are \$71,729 allocated to include \$30,275 in salaries and wages (including research consultant and outreach assistance), \$2,122 in fringe benefits, \$7,380 for operating expenses (including out of state student outreach support and focus group transcription services), \$10,444 to support graduate student researchers, and \$5,000 for incentives (for focus group and survey participants). The negotiated federal indirect costs total \$16,508.