

Google, Authors Guild, and Association of American Publishers Reach Copyright Settlement

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On Tuesday, October 28, 2008, Google Book Search reached an agreement with the publication industry, represented by the Author's Guild and the Association of American Publishers, in a class action suit regarding Google's use of copyrighted material. If the settlement is accepted, it will expand online access to copyrighted books offered on Google Books.

The Google Print Library Project was established to create a virtual card catalog to increase the public's access to ordinarily difficult to locate books, such as out-of-print books. The publishing industry, however, brought suit in 2006, claiming that Google's commercial purpose infringed publishers and authors' copyright rights because Google failed to secure permission from copyright holders before allowing electronic access to the protected materials, as required by 17 U.S.C. §101 of the Copyright Act.

If the Manhattan Court accepts the settlement agreement, Google Books will undergo several changes; more information of such changes are available on Google's website, <http://books.google.com/googlebooks/agreement/#2>. In addition, the actual settlement agreement is available online, <http://books.google.com/booksrightsholders/>.

Sources:

The Authors Guild, Inc., et al. v. Google Inc., Case No. 05 CV 8136 (S.D.N.Y.).