Access the Web

Welcome to Access the Web. Access Services is a broad and busy service area, with individuals wearing many hats. Couple this with the rapidly changing pace of the information world, and rapidly changing content on the Internet and it becomes very hard to keep from being overwhelmed by it all. How are busy access services personnel supposed to maintain currency with useful Internet websites and still have time to provide service?

This column is an attempt to assist those of you working in the various areas of access services with maintaining currency with websites that will provide information and tools that you can utilize in your work. Each issue will focus on a different theme, reviewing websites of use to access service personnel.   Suggestions for either themes for future columns or websites you would like to see reviewed may be directed to june.power@uncp.edu.

This issue's Internet theme is copyright. Not only has copyright law undergone changes in recent years, with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act and the TEACH Act, but it is an incredibly complicated and sensitive issue. There are few concrete answers. Copyright issues are a concern for libraries, especially in the areas of interlibrary loan and course reserves. The development of electronic course reserves and online course software, such as Blackboard, has further complicated this issue. Where can you turn for assistance? While some of the following web sites are in need of an update to reflect the most recent changes to copyright law, others are quite current, and all provide useful information and tools that facilitate dealing with copyright issues in the library.

ALA Copyright

http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/WOissues/copyrightb/copyright.htm

I found this website to be a cut and dry informational tool, mainly focused on the activities of the government as they relate to copyright. I don't frequently use this site, mainly because I don't like its organization and accessibility and, but it has some useful features. The ALA site is good for looking for the text of legislation, or to find out what is currently happening in Washington concerning copyright. I really like the Copyright Agenda at a Glance link, which brings up a .PDF file listing different pieces of legislation and court cases, the interested government parties, and about 3-4 main points to summarize the item. This is great for both me and my staff whose eyes tend to glaze over after the first few lines of legalese.

ARL – Copyright and Intellectual Property

http://www.arl.org/info/frn/copy/copytoc.html

The United States is not the only country concerned with copyright and intellectual property issues, so I was pleased to come across this website unique in its international perspective that many other copyright sites are lacking. International copyright activities, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Copyright Treaty, the Conference on Fair Use (CONFU) and resources on Canadian copyright issues are all included in this international focus. I personally use this site for copyright news, which is the first section so I see it as soon as the page loads and I don't have to click on anything else. The information is fairly similar to what is on the ALA website, but the ARL site is much more user-friendly.

Center for Intellectual Property - UMUC

http://www.umuc.edu/distance/odell/cip/cip.html

Need a list of resources for a copyright-related topic? This website has links for it all – guides, articles, commentary, debate, cases, legislation, information, current events and more for a variety of copyright related issues – though it doesn't actually provide much information directly. Need a policy? Revising a policy? Check out the "Policies Online." However, be aware that these policies have an academic focus. They are arranged into Faculty Ownership, Student Ownership, and Plagiarism. I was disappointed that there was not a section for generic copyright policies dealing with issues such as fair use, photocopying, and interlibrary loan. I think the policies they have are good, but more intended for administrators than library personnel dealing with the application of the law to library services. I use this site to find relevant workshops for myself and for my staff who work in interlibrary loan and course reserves.

Copyright Advisory Network

http://www.librarycopyright.net/

I really love this website and its companion book – Carrie Russell's Complete Copyright: an Everyday Guide for Librarians. This site is one of my favorite places to visit, because it is a direct link to other librarians and staff people who have specific questions. I was getting so frustrated with trying to find scenarios, best practices, and applications of the law in the midst of links to legislation, court cases, and a bunch of other dry information that I was about to give up when I discovered this book and website. I did not want to join another listserv and clog my already crowded inbox with even more messages. However, because of the design of this website is a discussion

forum, I can just create an account and post and read posts as is necessary or I am able. Experts and library personnel can post to the discussion threads, which gives me a varied perspective that I feel is important in dealing with copyright issues. Account holders can also create new topic threads to address specific issues that have not yet been discussed, which is the coolest feature of this forum, as many other forums limit this ability to the moderator.

Copyright Clearance Center

http://www.copyright.com/

This is one of those websites that I use when I have too and ignore otherwise. Though some informational resources are provided, the purpose of this site is to manage copyright for rights holders and content users, which for those of us working in libraries means they provide a way for people to pay the copyright fees for material they use for which fair use doesn't apply. I really only use two sections of this website and I only use those when I need to pay for copyright use or to request permission for use of items. I use the Electronic Course Content Service for electronic reserves and the Transactional Reporting Service for print reserves and interlibrary loan. Anybody that is responsible for making copyright payments for your library, as well as anybody working in reserves or ILL, should become familiar with this site and how to use it for when the need arises.

Copyright Resources on the Internet

http://groton.k12.ct.us/mts/pt2a.htm

This is one of my favorite copyright websites, despite the fact that I am not in the public schools. While a good deal of the policy material and a number of sections focus

on the public schools, this site is far from being just for school library media specialists. The website is comprehensive as well as intuitive and user-friendly. Again, one of my favorite features appears in the lists of links – annotations. Since the sections that I find most useful, Copyright Resources for General Interest and Copyright Resources for Higher Education, are long lists of websites, this helps me to decide which links I wish to use saving me from reinventing the wheel.

Library Law Blog

http://blog.librarylaw.com/librarylaw/

Though not specifically focused on copyright, I use this blog, for maintaining an ongoing awareness of issues related to copyright and other areas of the law that are relevant for libraries. The contributing authors post relevant headlines and news stories, and sometimes include some commentary based on their personal experiences with the topic under discussion. A really nice feature of this blog is that the archives are searchable by topic, including copyright, instead of having to go through each month's worth of archives to find relevant posts. The site is usually updated daily.

North Carolina State University Scholarly Communication Center

http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/scc/

Checklists, guidelines, FAQ's and tutorials are the reason I find this website among my list of favorites. I hate reinventing the wheel, and as I heard recently at the North Carolina Library Association Conference, "idea theft" is just how library personnel share. While everyone's details will differ based on their institution and patron needs, this is a good starting point for developing your own print and electronic materials to

explain to staff and patrons what copyright is and how to apply it to library services. Recently "The TEACH Toolkit" was added as an aid to understanding how the recent legislation relates to providing library services for distance education students, which is so useful even the comprehensive UT System website links to it.

Stanford Copyright and Fair Use Center

http://fairuse.stanford.edu/

Who loves one-stop-shopping? Don't want to have a long list of bookmarks or have to go to five different websites to examine different aspects of the same question? Try this website, which I use because it is comprehensive in its coverage of copyright – both in the information it provides and in its links to additional resources. It provides a quick overview, primary materials, fair use and web guides, and a section just for librarians that includes links to copyright policies. As a companion to this website, the University also publishes a monthly e-mail newsletter to which you can subscribe, which I feel is the most useful part of the website because it alerts me to current events related to fair use without me having to do anything extra in an already busy day, and it also provides articles on copyright-related topics.

UT System Crash Course in Copyright

http://www.utsystem.edu/OGC/IntellectualProperty/cprtindx.htm

This has got to be among the coolest, most often linked-to, comprehensive copyright websites available online. The information about the different aspects of copyright and its application in library settings is provided in a simple and straight-forward manner in an intuitive and user-friendly interface. This site is the one I use when

I want to train staff on the application of copyright to library services, and the one I point staff, faculty, and students to in order to learn how to apply the four Fair Use factors. The coolest feature of this website is the online tutorial of copyright "scenarios" – available in multiple formats for people with differing Internet connections, from high bandwidth to text-only. Take the quiz and see how well you know copyright!

When Works Pass Into the Public Domain

http://www.unc.edu/~unclng/public-d.htm

After having the experience of being in one of Lolly Gassoway's copyright workshops, I have found her chart the most useful copyright tool at my disposal. This chart helps to simplify the issue of deciding whether or not a copyrighted work is still covered by copyright restrictions based on the publication date. The format of the chart makes it easy to use – with the date, the chart includes what's covered, and term of coverage. This chart is regularly updated to reflect what is currently in the public domain with the last update having occurred in November 2004.