The TEACH Act Professional Development Audioconferences

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The TEACH Act was signed into law by President Bush in November of 2002. It dramatically and positively impacted how distance educators can use copyrighted materials in their transmitted, distance education courses.



Three months after TEACH was signed into law, in January 2003, the Manager of the Copyright and Intellectual Property Office presented his first national audioconference on using the TEACH Act for distance education classroom enhancement. This audioconference was made possible through the auspices of the Washington, D.C. based Instructional Telecommunications Council [ITC] on the TEACH Act. The latest audioconference was held on July 17, 2007.

These audioconferences via telephone have proven to be popular. Each subsequent year since 2003, the Copyright Office's Manager has given at least one TEACH Act audioconference for the ITC. A good question to ask is, "What is the ITC?"

An affiliated council of the American Association of Community Colleges, the ITC represents higher education institutions in the United States and Canada that use distance learning technologies: http://www.itcnetwork.org/ The Instructional Technology Council is now celebrating 30 years of providing leadership, information and resources to expand access to, and enhance learning through the effective use of

technology.

Ms. Christine Mullins, Executive Director of the ITC states the following about these national TEACH Act audioconferences. "For the past five years, Fritz has provided guidance to the members of the Instructional Technology Council about the often confusing world of copyright as it pertains to distance education, as part of our ongoing professional development audioconference series. Each audioconference has been filled to capacity at 35 participants, with many bringing other members of their staff to

listen via speakerphone. Fritz provides a clear and concise overview of the various options distance educators have for determining whether or not they can safely use copyrighted material in their distance learning courses. We also value the comprehensive

up-to-date TEACH Act Resource Page he has compiled for each of these presentations which include tutorials, check lists, sites with free materials, educational listings and other Web resources. Most educators want to share all of the incredible resources and media they find with their students – and do so ethically and legally. That is not always easy when it comes to complying with a hodgepodge of practices, guidelines and laws that have updated a law that was written well before most of today's distance education technologies, including online courses, were even envisioned. We are fortunate that Fritz has made this quest for 'doing the right thing' and desire not to be 'taken to the pokey' understandable."

The TEACH Act Resource Page mentioned by Ms. Mullins is seen above and can be accessed here: http://www.bsu.edu/classes/dolak/ITC/ It should be noted that these audioconference audio links for the ITC are made possible by the generosity of DALLAS TeleLearning.

For additional information about the TEACH Act or to have your questions answered, please contact Dr. Fritz Dolak, The University Libraries' Copyright and Intellectual Property Office, **FDolak@bsu.edu**, (765) 285-5330 or visit one of the three copyright pages that have been created for the Ball State University Community:

Copyright Office Homepage:

http://www.bsu.edu/library/collections/copyright/

Copyright for Students:

http://www.bsu.edu/library/collections/copyright/students/

Copyright for Distance Educators:

http://www.bsu.edu/library/collections/distanceed/faculty/