

The University Libraries Host the Seventh Annual Copyright Conference at Ball State

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It's the only annual copyright conference in the Midwest and it is also the only all-inclusive conference in the United States that offers its attendees three different types of credits: Continuing Legal Education, Library Education Units, and Certification Renewal Units.



This year the conference was held at the Ball State Alumni Center on Wednesday, April 21, 2010, from 8:30am until 4:00pm [<http://www.bsu.edu/library/conference/copyright/>]. As has been the case in the previous 4 years, the conference had a theme. This year the conference was entitled, "©ne Ring to Rule Them All" alluding to the copyright symbol of a "c" with a ring around it: ©.

The Copyright Law is critical for our nation's education. The ©ne Ring Conference addressed the proper use of someone else's copyrighted intellectual property for classroom enhancement. Numerous questions arise about using someone else's copyrighted material, the biggest of which is: Is this a legal, classroom use?



In the Digital Age we now live in and along with the concurrent uncertainties and question of how to use copyrighted materials properly for teaching and learning in both the face-to-face and distance education classrooms, ©ne Ring centered on that proper use of someone else's copyrighted materials to meet instructional objectives and/or learning outcomes for both the academic and K-12 classroom teaching and learning strategies.

And another first for the University Libraries' copyright conference was that for the first time in the United States, a joint copyright conference was held that addressed copyright in both the K-12 and academic contexts. With a tip of the hat to J.R.R.Tolkien, ©ne Ring provided "Two Towers" or tracks. One Tower was setup for K-12 issues and the other Tower for academic concerns. The K-12 Tower included K-12 instructors, media specialists, and for the very first time, high school students attended as well. The Academic Tower was comprised of administrators, librarians, academic faculty, university students, and lawyers.

There were over 110 in attendance at ©ne Ring. Besides Indiana, eight other states were represented: Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

One Ring's nationally-recognized intellectual property, Two Tower experts included:

- Stuart N. Brotman, J.D., Ball State Visiting Distinguished Professor of Emerging Media
- Dwayne K. Buttler, J.D., University of Louisville
- Michelle L. Cooper, J.D., Bose McKinney Evans, LLP
- Donna L. Ferullo, J.D., Purdue University
- Janice T. Pilch, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- James R. Williams, DeFur Voran LLP

Sponsors are an important part of the success of any conference. ©ne Ring's sponsors included:

- Bose McKinney Evans LLP

- DeFur Voran LLP
- Ball State University's Digital Policy Institute
- The Midwest Collaborative for Library Services
- The Muncie Visitors Bureau
- Paws, Inc.
- Badali Jewelry
- Ball State University Advancement

Many positive comments were made especially in regards to the incorporation of the new, two track academic and K-12 approaches to intellectual property issues and the classroom.

Relating to the K-12 Tower, Benjamin Csikos, Business & IT Department at Pike High School in Indianapolis, Indiana remarked, "Thank you so much for the wonderful conference. I know I learned a lot and my [high school] students were excited and are still talking about copyright. They are extremely excited about creating policy for our school and teaching our teachers about copyright."



Speakers from left to right: Stuart Brotman, Fritz Dolak, Janice Pilch, Michelle Cooper, Donna Ferullo, Dwayne

Philip J. Tramdack, Director of Library Services at Slippery Rock University, Pennsylvania, stated about the Academic Tower, "What a pleasure to spend a day on copyright and to come away with the refreshing feeling of understanding the specific things that are important to know about today, while having been reminded of the span and scope of the law and all it entails."

Proper intellectual property use is essential at the college and university level as well as for today's K-12 teachers and that use also extends to librarians, media specialists, and administrators. The University Libraries' Copyright Conference was, and will continue to be, a key resource for

answers to intellectual property questions.

For more information about ©ne Ring or for information on the 2011 Digital Trek 2 Copyright Conference, please contact:

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