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Working Title
Supporting the Determination of Fair-Use of Copyrighted Material

Target Interest Group
Faculty, Staff, Lawyers and Researchers who need to determine whether the material they are working with (papers, articles, books, images, songs, videos, words, designs, layouts, illustrations, diagrams, charts, graphs and etc.) are considered fair-use.

Predispositions (Initial Hypotheses)

- Faculty tend to think if they can get material easily off the internet then it is in the public domain.

- Faculty tend to think if they are using copyrighted material for non-profit reasons, then it’s fair-use.

- Fair-use information is not easy to come by.

- Fair-use is a gray area of the law.
Research Plan - Literature Review

The literature in this area is vast. The challenge will be to find the most relevant sources. I am looking into a conference (http://www.iasted.com/conferences/2003/NewYork/cnis.htm) that is presenting over this topic for leads. From there I plan on finding key researchers in the field and then begin building up my literature review from there. I will begin working on an annotated bibliography to collect the sources that I have reviewed. I expect the annotated bibliography to grow organically over the course of the project. It will provide a resource for further work, in addition to serving as the basis for the literature review.

Areas I am currently looking into:

- http://www.copyright.iupui.edu/
- http://www.copyright.gov/
- http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Our_Association/Offices/ALA_Washington/Issues2/Copyright1/Copyright_Articles/What_is_Fair_Use_.htm
- http://www.cetus.org/fairindex.html
- http://fairuse.stanford.edu/
- http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/cprtindex.htm
- http://www.esrc.ac.uk/esrcontent/DownloadDocs/wwwcopyrightandconfidentiality.doc
- http://www.surrey.ac.uk/Library/researchers/preparing_thesis.shtml
- http://www.bbk.ac.uk/lib/copyright.html
- http://www.lmu.ac.uk/lis/lss/copyright/index.htm
Research Plan - Observations (User Studies)

The plan is to work with Beth Cate who is the Associate University Counsel and Special Assistant for Policy and Procedures, RUGS. She is an expert in this area and with her I will observe her working pattern to develop an understanding of the decision process she uses.

Insights and Vision (Research Hypotheses)

Beth follows a set of steps to help faculty, staff, and researchers determine if what they are about to do is in accordance with fair-use or not. Because she follows a set of steps, there may be a way to codify this into a system that will help her and many attorneys in her same position save time. It will also provide a system that will allow our target group to find the necessary information about copyright and fair-use. This system will help them make an informed decision about whether the material they are using is in the public domain or not. If it’s not in the public domain, then the system will offer ways in which they can modify their work so they are in accordance with fair-use. It will also provide a form for the user to fill out, print and put in their files for verification to show that their actions were in “good intentions.”

We realize that if this system is not designed properly, it could be abused by people who do not accurately fill out the forms and this will be taken into
account when the system is designed. We will also be tracking the proper use of the system.

Concepts (Experiment Design)

Prototypes - Appearance (Look and Feel)

Prototypes - Exploration (Experiment)

Prototypes - Working+Usability (Usability Studies)

Strategies - Enterprise, Technology, and Social

(Conclusions and Future Research)

References