

Western Copyright Alliance (WCA)



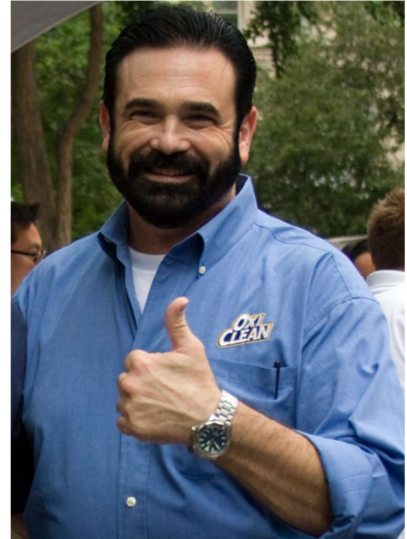
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Anali - Have you ever been asked to photocopy an entire book? Fielded questions from teachers about showing a movie to a class? Have you felt uncertain about whether you could live stream story time? Had a student ask if they can use a figure in their dissertation?

Wonder no more - the Western Copyright Alliance is here to help!

What to do with those unsightly stains?



Ellen

I'd venture a guess that none of us entered our library careers thinking that we'd be dealing with © questions, concerns, and implications on a regular basis.

- I don't recall any mention of © during my MLIS program. © not extensively covered in current MLIS programs
- In the actual library workforce, most librarians and staff who field © questions do not have law degrees
- Within one institution, there is usually at most one person tasked with answering questions about © in the library

Yet, we've found ourselves, through whatever circuitous routes, at the intersection of libraries and copyright. It's kind of scary and there's a lot of legalese, and an awful lot of questions from faculty, students, staff, and users of our libraries.

From this wild space, CFR training was born.

Kyle Courtney, lawyer & librarian, developed the CFR model to increase library-community engagement with © through targeted training and creation of networks of © literate folks to support each other (spread the expertise more widely)

The challenge is that maintaining strong yet dispersed communities is hard work.

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It has sleeves!



Snuggie[®]

Anali

However, aside from the Kraemer Copyright Conference, held each year at UC-CS, most of the initial CFR work and other copyright training opportunities were centered around academic libraries and in the eastern region. After an excellent happy hour at the Kraemer Conference recognized need for broader network of ©-literate library staff, and needed to figure out something that fits the needs of a less densely-populated region! The Western Copyright Alliance, with ASU, Chico State, and Portland Community College, received an IMLS grant to explore the copyright needs of library professionals at all types of libraries in the Western US. Results:

- Copyright IS a need!
- Lack of awareness & lack of time are the top barriers
- Supporting teaching & education is a top need
- Training needs to be situational - like needing sleeves on a blanket when you're reading a book (or making important phone calls)

With that information in mind, we started to reach out:

- CFR-ASU almost started in March 2020 as an in-person workshop. At ASU, we had arranged for KC to visit ASU for a multi-day training workshop. Then there was COVID and the shutdown and the realization that an alternative teaching modality was necessary.

Image credit:

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CFR - Western Copyright Alliance



Ellen

- CFR-AZ started in 2021, after Anali was kind enough to enlist UA and NAU in planning a virtual CFR training cohort that would expand the audience to the tri-universities. Cohorts were trained via Zoom (6 2-hour sessions every other week) in the spring of 2021 and 2022. CFR-AZ joined forces with CFR-Pacific Northwest, CFR-California, and a small but growing group in Alaska) in 2023 to train another cohort. While the 1st CFR-AZ group was limited to the tri-universities, the 2nd and now this 3rd cohort includes librarians and staff from health science libraries, community college libraries, public libraries, law school libraries, state libraries, tribal college libraries, school libraries and a few instructional designers as well.
- This multi state, multi region simultaneous round is proving great. By combining our groups, the burden on KC is reduced and scheduling is easier.
- Kyle had always planned to provide quarterly updates to each and every cohort of CFR trainees. Combining our cohorts into a larger group (roughly in the same time zone) eliminates duplication of effort. Downside is that the sessions with such large audiences could become less interactive, but KC does succeed in building community

through use of breakout rooms and very active chat activity.

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Anali - We've learned that having that community, even if it's just being formed, helps folks feel more confident in their ability to handle copyright issues in their roles - just knowing they have someone to ask if they need it! But Copyright First Responders is not the only option we are exploring—Kyle may be amazing, but he is not the only trainer in town! We want to share and take advantage of other opportunities and providers, and build & showcase our own local expertise and explore copyright in our contexts - we can build copyright competencies in our libraries, across our state, and across our region. Library Copyright Institute and OCEAN partnerships & collaborations coming in the future.

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It slices, it dices

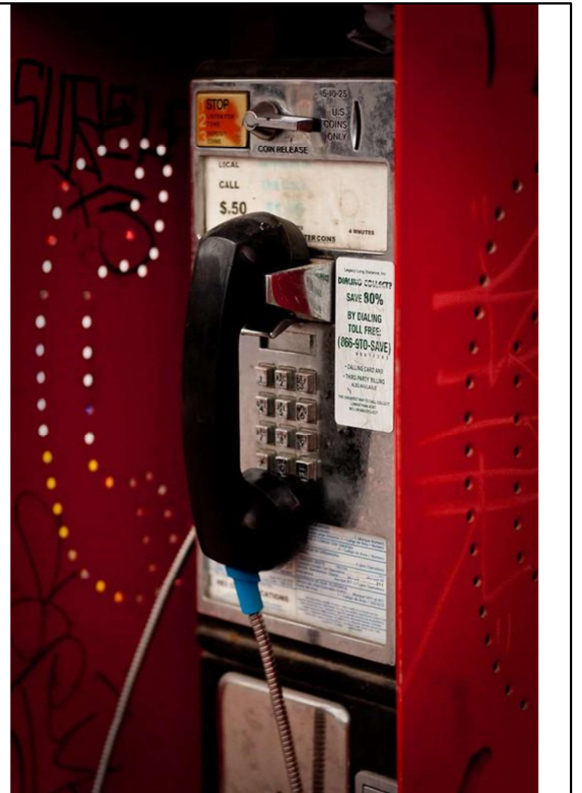


Ellen

CFR networks are great within a single institution or group (based on region or state), but we recognize that

- library workers are mobile and switch institutions,
- each group needs some local leadership which is oftentimes difficult to maintain (we're all busy!)
- pooling our resources is beneficial since the burden is better distributed, more back-up available,
 - collective & collaborative approach
- better resourced institutions can help carry the burden for the less-resourced institutions (who really benefit most from the network)

Order now!



Anali

And our overall goal is to create larger and more robust network of © literate community of practice across the Western united states with regular programming, shared resources, and a network of experts who can help and support one another. Copyright issues are a lot less intimidating when you have a friend on the life line.

Let us know if you want to get involved, or be notified when we start our next CFR cohort. And we welcome your suggestions

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Operators are standing by!



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Ellen