

Antipiracy bill introduced in the Senate

The chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, Ernest F. Hollings (D-South Carolina), has introduced a bill to stop piracy of copyrighted digital works. Hollings introduced the bill, the Consumer Broadband and Digital Television Act of 2002 (S. 2048) on March 21. The intent of the bill is to require electronics manufacturers to include anticopying technologies in consumer electronics such as computers, digital video devices, and other digital devices. Digital works would include embedded "flags" or watermarks so that computers and other digital devices would recognize the markers and play only copy-protected materials.

The bill comes at the encouragement of entertainment industry executives, such as Disney's Michael Eisner, who claim they lose millions of dollars each year because of pirated content. Prior to introducing Hollings's bill, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee held hearings on February 28 at which Eisner testified that government intervention was needed to ensure that the information technology industry develops technological standards to prevent piracy of digital content.

Studios say that if antipiracy technology were available, content providers would have incentives to make digital libraries of their films available to the public. Hollings's bill encourages electronics manufacturers, technology companies, and content providers to develop technologies to prevent illegal copying of digital works while protecting the consumer's right to make personal copies. Whether technology legislation can achieve the latter goal is one area of contention.

Information technology manufacturers argue that government intervention will only stifle innovation in the marketplace, resulting in fewer choices for consumers. Companies like Intel and Microsoft, and other groups like the Consumer Electronics Manufacturers As-

sociation, oppose the idea, stating that one technological solution does not fit all. Some also argue that once technologies are developed and put into place, hackers will find a way to circumvent the protection measures and render them useless.

The Senate Judiciary Committee also held a hearing on March 14 to discuss proposed government mandates for digital technology protections, "Competition, Innovation and Public Policy in the Digital Age: Is the Marketplace Working to Protect Digital Creative Works?" Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont) emphasized the committee's historical role in balancing the rights and interests of consumers, creators, and innovators. Leahy, committee members, and panelists agreed that piracy of movies, music, and other creative content is a serious economic problem, but that preserving the right of consumers to flexibly use legally purchased copyrighted material is equally as important. The controversy rests in determining how to resolve the issue without compromising consumer rights; private sector negotiations continue.

Joe Kraus, founder of the Internet portal Excite, cautioned the committee about accepting standards designed by the content community who "will not admit that there is such a thing as 'fair use.'" They will not admit that once consumers have legally purchased media that they should be free to engage with it in a wide variety of personal uses. This denial persists despite 30 years of congressional action and Supreme Court rulings affirming consumers' fair use rights." Kraus founded a digital consumer advocacy group that is pressing Congress to accept a digital consumer bill of rights, see <http://www.digitalconsumer.org>.

Hollings's bill must be sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee, where it will be considered by committee chairman Leahy. Leahy has promised that no bill will be passed this year unless the technology industry and content providers can resolve their differences. He requested that the technology and content industries keep the committee apprised of their progress.

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century such as *Ladies Home Journal* and *Delineator*, "Portfolio of Costumes," and "Research by Time and Topic." The third shelf is probably the most useful to librarians, as it provides links to fashion Web sites by time period, culture, and fashion designer. "Product Palace" lists links to "businesses that provide products and services related to the costume" while "Designer's Hall" lists "websites owned by costume designers." In addition, "Costume Classroom" offers online classes on how to make costumes and "Courtyard" provides recreational fun with costuming such as fashion postcards and paper dolls and an annual online costume ball.

Searching the Costume Gallery is straightforward, but not always easy. The categories are broad and require users to browse a hierarchy to find what they need. Many icons that seem like they should provide navigation links go nowhere, so it can be awkward to move from page to page, especially since there is no search mechanism. Each link opens a new browser window, so users can very quickly be working with a dozen open pages.

As with quote books, the best resource for costumes is the one where you find the costume that you need. The Costume Gallery is in fact one of the best available on the Web, and it complements the traditional print reference sources very nicely. For a list of more costume Web sites to consult if the costume you seek is not in the Costume Gallery, consult "GladRags.com," a guide to fashion and costume compiled by Monica Fusich for *C&RL News* in April 1999 (<http://www.ala.org/acrl/resapr99.html>).—*Mark Emmons, University of New Mexico, emmons@unm.edu*

American Museum of Natural History Congo Expedition 1909–1915. *Access:* <http://diglib1.amnh.org>.

The Congo Expedition 1909 to 1915 Web site is produced by the Digital Library of the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH). It provides a unique and informative venue for researchers, educators and students alike. The site details the Congo Expedition carried out by AMNH scientists Herbert Lang and James Chapin from 1909 to 1915. The expedition's mission was to gather biological and ethnographic materials to be displayed at the museum. Many of these materials, along with diaries, field notes and photo-

graphs, have been digitally documented and made available to the public.

The site is designed to interest both the layperson and the scholar. "Introduction," "Readings," and "Gallery" offer an array of stimulating multimedia, including stereophonic photographs, video and audio clips, and interactive Geographic Information Systems. Many of these features require a plug-in, which may be easily downloaded. "Scientific Publications," "Search," and "Resources" primarily serve the scientific community, offering several avenues for research into the AMNH's archival databases.

The narrated slide show in the introduction provides historical context for the Congo Expedition and sets the mood for the highly interactive nature of the site. This is worth the few minutes it may require to load. Other large files in the site load faster. The Map Gallery, for instance, uses TilePic and quickly displays historical maps of Africa and the Congo Region.

The primary database is accessed through the search section of the site. The search capability is relatively sophisticated, offering nine search fields and the option to limit by material type. Among the digitized materials featured are Lang and Chapin's diaries and field notes, which have been reproduced digitally and transcribed for indexing; 2,000 of the 9,000 photographs taken by Lang during the expedition; and descriptions of more than 4,000 anthropological objects, over half of which have been photographed.

The AMNH's Digital Library should be commended on its efforts to provide a stimulating learning environment, a well-indexed and fully searchable archival database, and comprehensive bibliographies. These materials have tremendous educational, historical, and scientific value. The site however, does not meet the Priority One Accessibility checkpoints established in the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. In spite of this, the site is highly recommended for the student, educator, scientist, or historian.—*Sheri Webber, Purchase College, SUNY, sheri.webber@purchase.edu* ■

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Hollings's bill is cosponsored by Ted Stevens (R-Arkansas), Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), John B. Breaux (D-Louisiana), Bill Nelson (D-Florida), and Dianne Feinstein (D-California). ■