

# BA A2K Platform Newsletter

Non Periodic Issue (8)

April 2010



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*"All men by nature desire to know."*



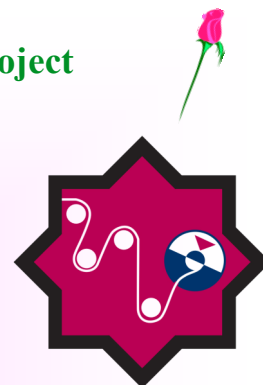
*Aristotle*

## The 100,000 Manuscripts (Mss) Project

This ambitious project by the [Manuscript Center](#) aims at the acquisition of the largest possible microfilmed and digital copies of the assorted manuscript collections worldwide. The project is intended for the fulfillment of three goals, namely: to **provide scientific research resources** in various fields of heritage; to establish academic cooperation with parallel centers all over the world; and to **disseminate scientific heritage**, in particular the works pertaining to the history of science, and **the contributions of the Arab-Islamic civilization**



to the human intellectual experience. The project was initiated four years ago with a primary target of 100,000 Mss. During the previous years, the Manuscript Center has exchanged copies of Arabic manuscripts with the Arab Manuscripts Institute in Cairo, the Juma al-Majid Heritage and Culture Center (UAE), and the Central Library of Islamic Manuscripts at the Egyptian Ministry of Endowments. The current year has witnessed the addition of 9029 manuscripts to total 54314 manuscripts. To date, the Manuscript Center has fulfilled 50% of the set target.



These manuscripts, as well as the other collections of the Manuscript Center & Museum, are made available for the public in the specialized reading rooms for manuscripts, microfilms, and rare books.

For more information about the manuscript centre and museum please visit [our website](#)

## Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet & Society and eIFL.net Launch "Copyright for Librarians," an Online Open Curriculum on Copyright Law

March 24, 2010 - Cambridge, Mass., and Rome, Italy - The Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University today announced the launch of a new online, open access curriculum, "Copyright for Librarians" (<http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/copyrightforlibrarians/>), developed in conjunction with eIFL.net. "Copyright for Librarians" aims to inform librarians about copyright law in general, as well as the aspects of copyright law that most affect libraries, especially those in developing and transition countries.

For more information [click here](#)



## News Highlights

### Google (Freedom of Expression)

February 24th, 2010  
**Larger Threat Is Seen in Google Case**

February 24th, 2010  
**Serious Threat to The Web in Italy**

March 9th, 2010  
**Google, ITU Address Policies Of Global Internet Freedom**

March 23rd , 2010  
**Google Makes Good on Its China Threat**

*"Imagine a world in which every single person on the planet has free access to the sum of all human knowledge."*

*Jimmy Wales, Founder of Wikipedia*



### Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA)

March 9th, 2010  
**European Parliament Unites Against 3 Strikes, ACTA Secrecy**

March 10th, 2010  
**633 to 13, EU Parliament Votes to Make ACTA Public, and More Sensitive to Civil Liberties and Consumer Protection**

March 17th, 2010  
**EU Proposes ACTA Require Criminal Sanctions for Inciting, Aiding and Abetting Infringements**

March 5th, 2010  
**Submissions To US Unilateral IP Enforcement Process Highlight Piracy, Health, and ACTA**

March 29th, 2010  
**Leaked ACTA Text Shows Possible Contradictions With National Laws**

March 11th, 2009  
**Obama Reiterates Support For Finishing ACTA**

March 27th, 2010

**UN Announces Launching of Arab Research Network Project**

**'We want to move from accessing knowledge to creating it'**



## Hot Issues in A2K

*"The right to search for truth implies also a duty; one must not conceal any part of what one has recognized to be true."*

*Albert Einstein*



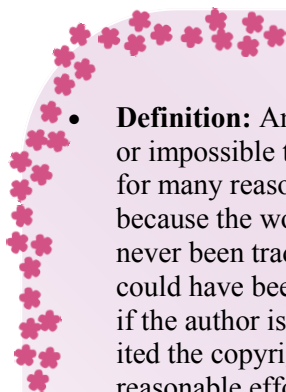
### Public Domain



- **Definition:** Works are in the public domain if they are not covered by intellectual property rights at all, if the intellectual property rights have expired, and/or if the intellectual property rights are forfeited or unclaimed. Examples include the English language, the formulae of Newtonian physics, as well as the works of Shakespeare and the patents over powered flight. (Source: [Wikipedia](#))
- **Suggested Readings:** The Public Domain: Enclosing the Commons of the Mind, By Professor James Boyle ([here](#))
- **Related Links:**
  - Multilingual Educational Resources about Intellectual Property and the Public Domain ([here](#))
  - The Public Domain Manifesto: The Public Domain is the Rule, Copyright is the Exception ([here](#))



### Orphan Works



- **Definition:** An orphan work is a copyright work where it is difficult or impossible to contact the copyright holder. This situation can arise for many reasons. The author could have never been publicly known because the work was published anonymously or the work may have never been traditionally published at all. The identity of the author could have been once known but the information lost over time. Even if the author is known, it may not be possible to determine who inherited the copyright and presently owns it. Nearly any work where a reasonable effort to locate the current copyright owner fails can be considered orphaned. (Source: [Wikipedia](#))
- **Solutions:** - The Copyright Board of **Canada** grants non-exclusive licenses for the use of published works when the copyright owner is identified but cannot be located. To obtain a license, an application form describing the efforts made to locate the rightowner must be completed.
  - The **U.S.** Copyright Office report on orphan works (2006) recommended that potential publishers of orphan works should first conduct a "reasonably diligent search" to locate the owners. Should the rightowners later appear and demand payment for the use, they are entitled to "reasonable compensation", but not compensation for infringement of copyright.



Please read [the eIFL Handbook on Copyright and Related Issues for Libraries - Orphan works](#) (Arabic version available [here](#))

## The Latest BA A2K Project Publications

### Translated Material



#### The Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health and the Contradictory Trend in Bilateral and Regional Free Trade Agreements

Most WTO Members are not significant producers of pharmaceutical products, relying on imports for supply to their public health systems. FTA negotiations involve the creation of market-access opportunities for export-oriented industries. Only a few developing countries are in a position to expand export opportunities in the pharmaceutical sector, or are in a position of protecting a substantial domestic pharmaceutical sector. Because domestic industry is not affected, substantial restrictions in FTAs on access to pharmaceutical products may be accepted within highly complex provisions with respect to patents and regulatory approval without close examination by public health officials.

Click [here](#) to View Full Arabic Version



*"Knowledge cultivates your seeds and does not sow in you seeds."*  
Khalil Gibran



### Suggested Readings

#### Intellectual Property in The Twenty-First Century: Will The Developing Countries Lead Or Follow?

By Jerome H. Reichman



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