

News Release: American Library Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALA will sponsor a satellite teleconference on February 7, 1978 to inform librarians and educators of their rights and responsibilities under the new copyright law, which takes effect on January 1, 1978. (P.L. 94-553)

The program will feature a panel composed of Barbara Ringer, Register of Copyrights, and four prominent copyright attorneys who will represent the consumer/user. Robert Wedgeworth, ALA Executive Director, will moderate.

ALA's goal is to provide information and guidance on the new law to as many people as possible, at the lowest possible cost and in the least possible time. With this in mind, ALA has designed the program as follows:

- It will be produced at the Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting (Owings Mills MD) and distributed via NASA's CTS Satellite to 12 public broadcasting stations in the south and southwest. The major reception point will be at the University of Texas in Austin, in conjunction with a statewide meeting of library and media personnel.
- a live studio audience, representing various interests in the library community, will address questions and concerns to the panel.
- participants at the Austin site will be able to place on-the-air phone calls to the panel in Maryland.
- people at other network sites will be able to place collect calls to the panel at the Maryland studio. They can watch on the screen as their questions are answered.

- more -

add one. Satellite teleconference

--Three-quarter inch videocassettes will be made of the program so that it can be used at locations where satellite interconnection is not possible--such as future meetings of a single group of librarians or of several groups meeting simultaneously in 8 - 10 cities, linked via the Darome Teleconferencing System (a low-cost means of bringing people together via telephone lines, similar to a telephone conference call). This system will make it possible for groups to interact with each other or to interact with a single panel.

Among the topics, the teleconference will cover are fair use, educational media and technology (including off-air taping of television and radio programs), library copying, penalties and remedies for infringement, and access mechanisms (clearinghouses, licensing systems, etc.).

The program will be broadcast from 8 - 10 p.m. (EST) and 7 - 9 p.m. (CST) on February 7. Besides Austin, anticipated receiving points include Greenbelt MD, Harrisonburg VA, Norfolk VA, Columbia SC, Jackson MS, Athens GA, Atlanta GA, Louisville KY, Birmingham AL, Oklahoma City OK, St. Louis MO.

This program marks the ALA's first use of space-age technology as an efficient and economical means of reaching its members. As Wedgeworth points out, "this technology offers infinite possibilities. Satellites could be used to transmit documents and other information of interest to libraries as well as to bring continuing education programs to vast numbers of people separated by vast distances."