

Access Copyright Backgrounder

February 3, 2012

Mary Hemmings
Chair, Copyright Committee
Canadian Association of Law Libraries

Canadian University Press, Sept. 6, 2011 “Universities Flee Access Copyright

Outlines how Saskatchewan, York, UBC and other western province universities have cut ties with Access Copyright. Reasons for rejecting Access Copyright included a \$45 per student fee as well as intrusive requirements for monitoring the use of copyrighted materials:

“But according to University of Saskatchewan copyright coordinator Jennifer Mainland, the fee hike was not the only factor in the school’s decision to part with Access Copyright.

She said the fee proposal was “the main reason,” but that “there were also a number of other requirements that Access Copyright had in their contract that said we have to give them access to our internal documents so that they can scrutinize how we’re using copyright materials”

<http://cupwire.ca/articles/46941>

Academic Matters: OCUFA’s Journal of Higher Education, “Access Copyright: University Libraries Give Up on the Copyright Go-Between

As late as October 2011, the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA) was predicting that Access Copyright would go the way of Blockbuster. Noting that CAUT and the Canadian Federation of Students filed objections to Access Copyright’s restructured pricing and proposed campus monitoring, 14 of 25 universities had opted out of Access Access Copyright by late summer, 2011

<http://www.academicmatters.ca/2011/10/access-copyright-university-libraries-give-up-on-the-copyright-go-between/>

Despite the growing opposition by academic institutions to Access Copyright’s pricing and license requirements, the academic community was surprised to learn that UofT and Western signed identically worded licenses for a fee of \$27.50 per student



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On January 30, “**Western , UofT Sign Agreement with Access Copyright**”, **Western News**
http://communications.uwo.ca/com/media_newsroom/media_newsroom_stories/uoft_and_western_sign_agreement_with_access_copyright_20120130447688/

On February 2, 2012, “**Copyright Deal Struck**”, **Western News** reports Western’s signing of a contract with Access Copyright over the objections of Sam Trosow: “Sam Trosow, a Faculty of Information and Media Studies professor, cross-appointed with the Faculty of Law, said, following the proposal of the original revamped agreement, the surveillance guidelines set out by Access Copyright would be destructive to privacy. He also argued it would lead to controlling the conduct of everyone on campus because of a requirement to report all copied, emailed, hyperlinked, projected and displayed materials.

http://communications.uwo.ca/western_news/stories/2012/February/copyright_deal_struck.html

Other comments were equally critical:

Some commentary by Howard Knopf:

<http://excesscopyright.blogspot.com/2012/01/u-of-t-and-western-capitulate-to-access.html>

and Ariel Katz:

<http://arielkatz.ca/archives/1350>