

DRL2

Subject: Re: Lifting vs Fair Use  
Date: Mon, 25 Jan 2010 14:13:04 +0200  
From: David Robert Lewis (ethnopunk) <ethnopunk@telkomsa.net>  
To: Lesley Cowling <ljc@icon.co.za>  
References: <4B5D73DC.3050203@telkomsa.net>  
<01be01ca9db0\$7745f9c0\$58538d92@DS.WITS.AC.ZA>

Lesley Cowling wrote:

Hi:

I can't read the story too clearly because the pics are not clear, but from what I can see, you clearly attribute the information you took from the website and put it in quotes. Thus it is not plagiarism, but there could be some discussion over whether it would be useful to the reader to have a full url that they could go to.

I have included the following url from the Wits Library website on issues of copyright, which you may find helpful.

<http://web.wits.ac.za/Library/Services/COPYRIGHT.htm#9>

Further, I would just like to say that, notwithstanding the stress of the situation, it seems important to make your argument relatively short, clear and to the point. Thus, a) assert there is no plagiarism; b) provide the evidence of that ie the article and any clear documentation on copyright that you can present, and c) concede that it may have been useful to include a fuller description of the source, so that readers could follow up if they wanted, but this is simply an editorial judgment call, not a firing offence. I am not a lawyer, so this cannot take the place of your legal advisor, but it makes sense to me. Too much explanation etc sounds like you are justifying yourself, and it doesn't seem you need to do that.

Best,

Lesley

NR  
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