authors, authority, reputations
then and now
Quality of Information
October 3
housekeeping?
the story so far

infoenthusiasms

quantity vs quality

rotten information

economics & quality

institutions

literacy

author
the story so far

- infoenthusiasts
- quantity vs quality
- rotten information
- economics & quality
- institutions
- literacy
- author
the story so far

infoenthusiasms

quantity vs quality

rotten information

economics & quality

institutions

literacy

author
the road ahead

assumptions about authenticity
letting go of the author
rotten information & the author function
depth of the author

Foucault
rise of the author
authorial brands
back to the net
back to Foucault
What happened with blogs and with wikis, these editable web spaces, was that they became much more simple. ... there's a certain ethos within the blogging community, you always point to your source, you point all the way back to the original article. If you're looking at something and you don't know where it comes from, if there's no pointer to the source, you can ignore it.

Tim Berners-Lee
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/4132752.stm
"The real experts do not believe in the fallacy of appeal to authority."

--Jimmy Wales
author, authority, authentic,

Wikis, mashups and Web 3.0

authentic, a. (and n.)

†1. a. Of authority, authoritative (properly as possessing original or inherent authority, but also as duly authorized); entitled to obedience or respect. Obs.

1340 HAMPOLE Pr. Cons. 7116 Saint Austyn. Whase wordes er auctentyke. 1382 WYCLIF Isa. Prol., No goostli vndurstondyng is autentik, no but it be groundid in the text opynli. a1420 HOCCLEVE De Reg. Princ.
author, authority, authentic,

**author, n.**

1. *gen.* The person who originates or gives existence to anything: a. An inventor, constructor, or founder. Now obs. of things material; exc. as in b.

**authentic, a. (and n.)**

A. adj.

1. a. Of authority, authoritative (*properly* as possessing original or inherent authority, but also as duly authorized); entitled to obedience or respect. *Obs.*

1340 HAMPole *Pr. Cons.* 7116 Saint Austyn.. Whase wordes er auctentyke. 1382 WYCLIF *Isa.* Prol., No goostli vndurstondyng is autentik, no but it be groundid in the text opynli. a1420 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.*
a robust category?
Low's Elements of Practical Agriculture; comprehending the Cultivation of Plants, the Husbandry of the Domestic Animals, and the Economy of the Farm. New Edition; with 200 Woodcuts. Svo. 21s.


Macaulay.—Speeches of the Right Hon. T.B. Macaulay, M.P. Corrected by Himself. Svo. price 12s.


Mr. Macaulay's Critical and Historical Essays contributed to the Edinburgh Review. Four Editions, as follows:—

Mackintosh.—A Dictionary, Practical, Theoretical, and Historical, of Commerce and Commercial Navigation, Illustrated with Maps and Plans. By J.R. Mackintosh, Esq. New Edition; embracing a large mass of new and important Information in regard to the Trade, Commercial Law, and Navigation of this and other Countries. Two parts. 8vo. price 31s. cloth half-morocco.

McCulloch. — A Dictionary, Geographical, Statistical, and Historical, of the various Countries, Places, and Principal Natural Objects in the World. By...
753 books (1796-2006)

Page 11
Grf. The Englishman's Greek Concordance of the New Testament; Being an attempt at a Verbal Connexion between the Greek and the English Texts; including...
494 books (1831-2003)

Page 17
who is an author

Shakespeare

"not of an age but for all time?"

"our ideas on the integrity of Shakespeare's identity predicated on notions of single authorship; in fact Elizabethan theatre was far more like cinema today; scripts were passed around among journeymen and fledglings to fill in gaps"

Stanley Wells, "Shakespeare & Co.'

between 1598 and 1602, Thomas Decker "a hand in over forty plays, including script doctoring and revising both his own plays and those of others." --DNB
literati or digerati?

**open source**

Table 1: Top 10 authors ranked by contribution of code

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>% of total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>free software foundation</td>
<td>11.231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sun microsystems</td>
<td>1.848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>regents of the university of california</td>
<td>1.359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gordon matzigkeit</td>
<td>1.216</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"The author is a modern figure, a product of our society insofar as, emerging from the Middle Ages with English empiricism, French rationalism, and the personal faith of the Reformation, it discovered the prestige of the individual

"... capitalist ideology, which has attached the greatest importance to the 'person' of the author"

Roland Barthes, 'The Death of the Author', 1968
"Like contemporary critical theory, hypertext reconfigures--rewrites--the author ... the figure of the hypertext author approaches ... that of the reader ... hypertext ... infringes upon the power of the writer.

George Landow, *Hypertext*
"A certain number of notions that are intended to replace the privileged position of the author actually seem to preserve that privilege and suppress the real meaning of his disappearance.

"It is not enough ... to repeat the empty affirmation that the author has disappeared. Instead we must locate the space left empty by the author's disappearance, follow the distribution of gaps and breaches, and watch for the openings that this disappearance uncovers"

--Foucault, 'What is an author', 1969
locating the author

"pure romanticism"?
Tasini vs New York Times

the author's due?

Guilds Ask Screenwriters for Strike Authorization
By MICHAEL CIEPLY LOS ANGELES, Oct. 1 — Unions representing 12000 screenwriters asked members on Monday to authorize a strike at any time after their ... Hollywood union asks writers to authorize strike Reuters UK Studios, networks braced for strike C21Media all 28 news articles »
locating the author function

penal appropriation?

Varieties of Rotten Information

Problems of authenticity: fakes, hoaxes, forgeries, plagiarism, etc.
Problems of quality: reliability and “authoritativness” --
Problems of “pollution”: pornography, hate speech, subversive writing, etc.
False alarm: iPhone NOT delayed until October, Leopard NOT delayed again until January

Update:

Here's the story. A trustworthy source supplied us with an actual internal Apple email that went out to thousands of Apple employees earlier today (published after the break). The fact that this was an email sent within Apple's internal email system to its employees is not in question. Let us reiterate: this was an ACTUAL email distributed within Apple's internal email system to Apple employees.

As it turns out, the internal memo Apple employees received was actually retracted by Apple shortly after it was sent out. (Also published after the break.) We received confirmation from Apple PR that this initial email sent out to Apple employees was incorrect, and they let us know that the iPhone and Leopard are both still on track, and should meet their expected launch timeframes.

Presumably Apple is now on the hunt for whomever was able to spoof its internal email system.

Original Apple email

From: Bullet News
Date: May 16, 2007 9:09 AM CDT
To: [redacted]
Subject: Mac OS X Leopard and iPhone Delayed

Mac OS X Leopard Delayed Until January
forgeries

authors & authenticity
Memos on Bush Are Fake but Accurate, Typist Says

By THE NEW YORK TIMES
Published: September 15, 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD
SUBJECT: Bush, George W. 1st Lt. 326475450 Suspension of Flight status

1. On this date I ordered that 1st Lt. Bush be suspended from flight status due to failure to perform to USAF/TexasANG standards and failure to meet annual physical examination (flight) as ordered.

2. I conveyed my verbal orders to commander, 147th FTR Intrep Op with request for orders for suspension and convening of a flight review board IAW AFM 35-13.

3. I recommended transfer of this officer to the 9921st Air Reserve Squadron in May and forwarded his AF Form 1286 to 147th FTR Intrep Op headquarters. The transfer was not allowed. Officer has made an attempt to meet his training certification or flight physical. Officer expresses desire to transfer out of state including assignment to non-flying billets.

4. On recommendation of Harris, I also suggested that we fill this critical billet with a more seasoned pilot from the list of qualified Vietnam pilots that have retired. Recommendations were received but not confirmed.

forgeries

authors & authenticity
QofI07_Author - 18

Authorial Responsibility

activities. The dearth of such evidence is notable for nuclear weapons proliferation. Saddam Hussein has not radically expanded these activities. He dearly has much to hide.

Sodium levels suitable for nuclear weapons production. Saddam Hussein has not radically expanded these activities. He dearly has much to hide.

The International Atomic Energy Agency concluded in its 1995 Iraq Saddam Hussein had an advanced nuclear weapons development program. An assessment for a nuclear weapon was working on the different methods of weaponizing uranium for a bomb. The intelligence community has learned that Saddam Hussein exceeded sodium significance 100,000 times uranium for a bomb. The intelligence community has learned that Saddam Hussein exceeded sodium significance 100,000 times.

President Deliver „State of the Union“
It is one of the best-known stem cell papers in the past five years, describing adult cells that seemed to hold the same promise as embryonic stem cells. Now, following inquiries by New Scientist, some of the data contained within the papers is being questioned.

In 2002, a team led by Catherine Verfaillie of the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, described “multipotent adult progenitor cells” or MAPCs, isolated from the bone marrow of rodents (Nature, vol 418, p 41). These cells seemed able to develop into most of the body’s tissues.

Previously, only embryonic stem cells (ESCs) had proved so versatile, and the work was seized upon by opponents of ESC research, who claimed it showed similarly versatile cells could be harvested without destroying human embryos.

The results proved hard to replicate even Verfaillie’s own group looked more closely, and its supplementary information published at about the same time even though they were supposing different mice. The plots described cells supposedly characteristic of the MAPC. Dr Jon Sudbo reportedly made up patients and case histories for the study published in highly-respected Lancet medical journal last October.

Cancer study patients 'made up'

A cancer expert invented patients for a study which concluded taking common painkillers could protect against oral cancer, it is alleged.

Dr Jon Sudbo reportedly made up patients and case histories for the study published in highly-respected Lancet medical journal last October.

Dr Sudbo has not commented publicly on the claims.

But a spokeswoman for Oslo’s Norwegian Radium Hospital, where he works, said he had admitted falsifying data.

The revelation comes just days after work published in the journal Science by South Korean cloning expert Hwang Woo-suk was revealed as fabricated.

Hospital spokeswoman, Trine Lind said: “We are shocked. This is the worst thing that could happen in a research institution like ours.”

Stein Vaaler, director of external relations at the hospital, added: "He published an article in The Lancet in October last year whose data is totally false, actually totally fabricated.

"His database had been completely fabricated on his computer."
Who was the author?

Professor Goodwin’s explanation for the plagiarism involved faulty note taking habits, not just on her part, but on the part of four research assistants who help write her books. These faulty note taking habits made it difficult, she explained, for them to distinguish between notes containing their own analysis and notes summarizing analysis they find in books written by others.
A Pianist’s Recordings Draw Praise, but Were They All Hers?

By ALAN RIDING

PARIS, Feb. 16 — In the autumn of her life, decades after she had last performed in public, the British pianist Joyce Hatto was rediscovered by a small group of musicians and critics who contended that her recordings of Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Liszt and others ranked alongside those of the 20th century’s most exceptional virtuosos.

When she died last June at 77, some of those same enthusiasts again proclaimed her to be a neglected genius, in glowing obituaries written for British newspapers. In The Guardian, the music critic Jeremy Nicholas described her as “one of the greatest pianists Britain has ever produced.”

Mr. Nicholas and others, it seems, had accepted the explanation for her lack of renown among music lovers: a long battle against cancer had forced her to abandon her concert career in 1976 and led her to devote her energy to recording all the great works in the piano repertory, from Scarlatti to Messiaen, for the small British label Concert Artist.

“Joyce Hatto must be the greatest living pianist that almost no one has ever heard of,” Richard Dyer wrote in The Boston Globe in 2005.

But now Ms. Hatto’s reputation for excellence and originality has been shaken by a charge of plagiarism. Gramophone, the London music monthly, has presented evidence that several of the recordings issued under her name were in fact copied from recordings of the same music by other pianists.
plagiarism: an eternal crime

"Plagiarism is perennial ... 'the wrongful appropriation, or purloining, and publication of one's own, of the ideas, or the expression of the ideas ... of another"

Christopher Ricks
"Ricks ... believes that Martial is protesting against the theft of his work, and he translates plagiarius as "the abductor of the child or slave of another". If this gloss were accurate, Ricks would have good grounds for his interpretation of Martial's metaphor, but in fact the primary meaning of plagiarius is "one who illegally slaves another". The word carries the sense of the improper subjugation of a person who is properly free, and thus the epigram actually means the opposite of what Ricks says it means. The "Plagiary" is not criticised for stealing Martial's work, but for asserting ownership over a published piece of literature, thus illegitimately "enslaving" what rightfully belongs to the public domain. The epigram does not condemn what we know as "plagiarism" but implicitly sanctions it."

David Hawkes
mashups of the past

"Shall we forever make new books as apothecaries make new mixtures, by pouring only out of one vessel into another? Are we forever to be twisting and untwisting the same rope?"

Laurence Sterne, Tristram Shandy, 1761-7
Problems of pollution

Out of place?

A Prosecution Tests the Definition of Obscenity

Mary Beth Buchanan is seen as the government’s most aggressive opponent of pornography.

By NEIL A. LEWIS
Published: September 28, 2007

PITTSBURGH — Sometime early next year, Karen Fletcher, a 56-year-old recluse living on disability payments, will go on trial in federal court here on obscenity charges for writings distributed on the Internet to about two dozen subscribers.
The author is a modern figure, a product of our society insofar as, emerging from the Middle Ages with English empiricism, French rationalism, and the personal faith of the Reformation, it discovered the prestige of the individual capitalist ideology, which has attached the greatest importance to the 'person' of the author.

The explanation of a work is always sought in the man or woman who produced it.
the text is a tissue of quotations

To give a text an Author is to impose a limit on that text, to furnish it with a final signified, to close the writing

a text's unity lies not in its origin, but in its destination

the birth of the reader must be at the cost of the death of the author

--Barthes
not dead yet

Foucault, 'What is an author?' 1969

in agreement

The author is a modern figure --Barthes

The coming into being of the notion of "author" constitutes the privileged moment of individualization in the history of ideas, knowledge, literature, philosophy, and the sciences.

--Foucault
Once the Author is removed, the claim to decipher a text becomes quite futile. To give a text an Author is to impose a limit on that text.

--Barthes

A certain number of notions that are intended to replace the privileged position of the author actually seem to preserve that privilege and suppress the real meaning of his disappearance.

--Foucault
what is a work?

A familiar thesis that the task of criticism is ... to analyze the work through its structure... a problem arises: “What is a work? Even when an individual has been accepted as an author, we must still ask whether everything he wrote ... is part of his work ... a laundry list: Is it work or not? It is not enough to declare that we should do without the writer (the author) and study the work in itself. The word "work" and the unity that it designates are probably as problematic as the status of the author's individuality"
multiple authors

and the mode of existence

the author's name performs a certain role with regard to narrative discourse, assuring a classificatory function ... to characterize a certain mode of being of a discourse ... in a civilization like our own, there are a certain number of discourses that are endowed with the "author function" while others are deprived of it. A private letter may well have a signer; it does not have an author; a contract may well have a guarantor, it does not have an author. An anonymous text posted on a wall probably has a writer, but not an author. The author function is therefore characteristic of the mode of existence, circulation, and functioning of certain discourses within a society.
functioning authors

St Jerome & unity

(i) if one is inferior to the others

(ii) if certain texts contradict the doctrine expounded in the author's other work

(iii) different style

(iv) events that occurred after the author's death

discharging the canon

Shall I die?

A lover's complaint

revisions

Qof107_Author - 32
Jean Mabillon (1632-1707)

*De Re Diplomatica*, 1681

*a forger's charter?*

the charter of La Tour d'Auvergne
"skilfully forged by a sublibrarian who ended his days in the Bastille"

--David Knowles
four characteristics

appropriation
linked to the juridical and institutional system

neither universal nor constant
does not affect all discourses the same way

complex not spontaneous
not defined by the spontaneous attribution of a discourse to its producer, but rather by a series of specific and complex operations

a particular source of expression
it does not refer purely and simply to a real individual
the *rise* of the author?

The author is a modern figure --Barthes

discourses are objects of appropriation ...

penal appropriation. Texts ... began to have authors ... to the extent that authors became subject to punishment

--Foucault
supply chains

Allgemeines Oeconomisches Lexicon (1753)

Book, either numerous sheets of white paper that have been stitched together in such a way that they can be filled with writing; or, a highly useful and convenient instrument constructed of printed sheets variously bound in cardboard, paper, vellum, leather, etc. for presenting the truth to another in such a way that it can be conveniently read and recognized. Many people work on this ware before it is complete and becomes an actual book in this sense. The scholar and the writer, the papermaker, the type founder, the typesetter and the printer, the proofreader, the publisher, the book binder, sometimes even the gilder and the brass-worker, etc. Thus many mouths are fed by this branch of manufacture.
whose name?

1546 printer's name in books
1557 stationers' company charter
1559 stationers' patent
on bible, music, law, almanacs
1642, end of Star Chamber
1660, Restoration
struggle for control

His NAME at the Bottom of a Title Page, does sufficiently recommend
whose name?

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1559 stationers' patent
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1660, Restoration

His NAME at the Bottom of a Title Page, does sufficiently recommend
"We must not think to make a staple commodity of all the knowledge in the Land, to mark and licence it like our broad cloath, and our wool packs"

- Milton

1694/5 end of licensing act
1709/10 Statute of Anne

"printers attacking early piracies tend to focus public arguments on the supposed poor quality of the piracy, as if the only injury done was to the reader and to the reputation of the printer; piracy damages a market in durable good. --Joseph Loewenstein, The Author's Due

A Books is the Author's Property, 'tis the Child of his Invention, the Brat of his Brains; 'tis as much his own as his Wife and Children .... [but] these Children of our Heads are seiz'd, captivated, spirited away, and carry'd into Captivity" --Defoe
"The author is an instrumental convenience in regulatory struggles being carried on within the book trade." -- Joseph Loewenstein

It might be said that the London booksellers invented the modern proprietary author, constructing him as a weapon in their struggle with the booksellers [printers? or publishers?] -- Mark Rose

The invention of the author as proprietor ... is directly linked with the claim for the perpetuation of an old system of privileges ... [not] from a new bourgeois conception of the property and the market.
liability to asset

O, for my sake do you with Fortune chide,
The guilty goddess of my harmful deeds,
That did not better for my life provide
Than public means which public manners breeds.

Then comes it that my name receives a brand,
And almost thence my nature is subdued
To what it works in like the dyer's hand.

Sonnet 111

"The stationers made 'Shakespeare'"
--Lucas Erne
"The name as an individual trademark . . .
Foucault

"The author-work relation is embedded in library
catalogues, the indexes of standard literary
histories.... It is pervasive in our education
system ... institutionalized in our system of
marketing cultural products ... the name of the
author . . . becomes a kind of brand name."

Mark Rose, Authors & Owners
neither universal...

**who brands the chain?**
publishers - printers - editors - authors

producer - director - actors - screenwriter

stations - networks - production companies - directors - actors - writers

record company - producer - musicians - singers - songwriters

company - director - actors - playwright

**other genres**
dictionaries, encyclopedias, romances, translations ...

**who becomes an author?**
... nor constant

academic branding

"He was Lambert Strether because he was on the cover, whereas it should have been for anything like glory, that he was on the cover because he was Lambert Strether."

--Henry James, The Ambassadors
complex construction

science vs social science
Foucault vs Chartier
Newton vs Marx & Freud

the discourse of the founders ... do not participate in the practice's transformations

... Re-examination of Galileo's text may well change our knowledge of the history of mechanics [but not of] mechanics itself

--Foucault
"Our thoughts and beliefs 'pass,' so long as nothing challenges them, just as bank-notes pass so long as nobody refuses them."

William James, *Pragmatism*

**Steven Shapin, A Social History of Truth**

"I will write my Name in each Book with my own Hand"

Desaguliers, *Course of Experimental Philosophy*, 1734
copy and quality again

1774 Donaldson v Becket
booksellers lose
"common law" right to copy.

'systems of constraint'? quality editions
English Poets encyclopedias
dictionaries Shakespeare
copy and quality again

1774 Donaldson v Becket
booksellers lose "common law" right to copy.

'systems of constraint'?
quality editions
English Poets
encyclopedias
dictionaries
Shakespeare
"The wild side of the Internet typified by blogs and fast-running rumors could be tempered by the heft of these libraries".
San Francisco Chronicle

"Google's newest project .. will help fulfill the original intention of the Internet: to help people find solid background facts quickly".
Chicago Sun-Times

"Most of today's online content was 'born digital, thus cannot be verified. By contrast, library materials become available through Google originate from fully authoritative sources, and cover every conceivable topic since the advent of printing".
Michigan Library Press Release
uncertain reputation

Google and Michigan's Library

Google books is an astonishing, epochal development. But I am tired of journalists who write about it ignoring the fact that the core of the digitized collection is the 7 million volumes at the University of Michigan. It is always mentioned that Harvard and Oxford are participating. Last I knew, Oxford offered them access to 40,000 volumes. But U-M President Mary Sue Coleman offered Google access everything we have, and has been good at giving the project an intellectual rationale. Google is going through the shelves and running optical character recognition on every book they encounter, in every language.

One problem: I am already finding poorly done books, where every other page is blurred beyond reading. This is very bad because I don't know when it would ever be corrected, and no one would have an incentive to carry out this sort of project once Google has.

I hope Google will tighten its quality control, and will commit to redoing flawed scanning jobs. For many research projects, only if everything is

posted by Juan @ 9/01/2006 06:33:00 AM 7 comments
uncertain reputation

posted by Juan @ 9/01/2006 06:33:00 AM 7 comments

Google books is an astonishing, epochal development. But I am tired of journalists who write about it ignoring the fact that the core of the digitized collection is the 7 million volumes at the University of Michigan. It is always mentioned that Harvard and Oxford are participating. Last I knew, Oxford offered them access to 40,000 volumes... But U-M President Mary Sue Coleman offered Google access everything we have, and has been good at giving the project an intellectual rationale. Google is going through the shelves and running optical character recognition on every book they encounter, in every language.

One problem: I am already finding poorly done books, where every other page is blurred beyond reading. This is very bad because I don't know when it would ever be corrected, and no one would have an incentive to carry out this sort of project once Google has.

I hope Google will tighten its quality control, and will commit to redoing flawed scanning jobs. For many research projects, only if everything is perfect will they ever use this.
uncertain reputation

posted by Juan @ 9/01/2006 06:33:00 AM 7 comments

Google books is an astonishing, epochal development. But I am tired of journalists who write about it ignoring the fact that the core of the digitalization project is going on right here, at Harvard, not at Google. It is the last I know that a Harvard president, Maureen Mahon, is putting their digitization project on display. They are going through the shelves and running optical character recognition on every book they encounter, in every language.

One problem: I am already finding poorly done books, where every other page is blurred beyond reading. This is very bad because I don't know when it would ever be corrected, and no one would have an incentive to carry out this sort of project once Google has.

I hope Google will tighten its quality control, and will commit to redoing flawed scanning jobs. For many research projects, only if everything is complete...
uncertain reputation
1695 again
New Google Service May Strain Old Ties in Bookselling

By EDWARD WYATT
Published: October 8, 2004

FRANKFURT, Oct. 7 - Google Print, the new search engine that allows consumers to search the content of books online, could help touch off an important shift in the balance of power between companies that produce books and those that sell them, publishing executives said here on Thursday.
July 15, 2005 8:38 AM PDT

More backlash for Google Print

Attacks on Google's Print for Libraries service keep on coming from the nonprofit publishing sector. Now the Association for Learned and Professional Society Publishers, which represents non-profit publishers such as university presses in more than 30 countries, is taking aim at the legality of Google's service. By publishing complete digital copies of various works without consulting with the publishers, Google is clearly violating copyright law, the ALPSP alleges in a July statement.

Google wasn't always in the wrong, the ALPSP notes. The two parties collaborated on "full-text indexing" of online publications in Google's Print for Publishers feature, and the ALPSP encouraged its publishers to participate in the venture. But Google had no right to "claim the publishing rights with respect to protected works," the ALPSP said.
More backlash for Google Print

Attacks on Google's Print for Libraries service keep on coming from the right.

Authors sue Google over book plan

A US writers' group is suing internet search engine Google, claiming that its plan to digitise major library book collections infringes author copyright.

The Authors Guild has filed a lawsuit in the US District Court for the Southern District of New York.

The lawsuit seeks class action status, seeks damages and demands an injunction against further infringements.

Google said it regretted the Authors Guild action, asked for more talks, and claimed its plans benefited writers.
Attacks on Google's Print for Libraries service keep on coming from the right.

1695 again
More backlash for Google Print

Attacks on Google's Print for Libraries service keep on coming from the right.

A US copyright group has launched a lawsuit against Google, which is working on a plan to digitise and make searchable its entire collection of books.

The lawsuit, filed in District Court in Washington, DC, says Google violates laws that demand fair compensation for authors and libraries.

The group, known as Amici, has launched the lawsuit against Google after a previous attempt was dropped.

Google opened up to 200 years of news

Web giant Google is further expanding its online empire with the launch of the Google News Archive Search.

The web-based tool allows users to explore existing digitised newspaper articles spanning the last 200 years and more recent online content.

People using the search are shown results from both free and subscription-based news outlets.

Partners in the project include the websites of US newspaper the New York Times and the Guardian from the UK.

The news archive search is one of several new Google services
More backlash for Google Print

Attacks on Google's Print for Libraries service keep on coming from the right.

The American Library Association, taking exception to Google's plan to scan millions of books and make the text searchable online, is threatening legal action, in a complaint that it is a violation of fair use.

The US Copyright Office was also to hear evidence from Google and its critics, as a hearing that could ultimately decide whether such a massive copyright project is legal.

The law seeks a permanent injunction to prevent Google from carrying out its plans.

Besides the legal action, there have been several attacks from the Right. The US Business Roundtable, the leading business lobby, has come out against the project, and the US Office of the Intellectual Property is also said to have complaints.

A US government official is quoted as saying that the dispute may play out in court, which could decide the future of the project.

The BBC reports that the legal action could stall Google's plans to scan 30 million books, and that the US Copyright Office is said to have complaints.

The project is to be discussed by the US Copyright Office, which could decide whether such a massive copyright project is legal.

In addition to the legal action, there have been several attacks from the Right, including the US Business Roundtable, which has come out against the project, and the US Office of the Intellectual Property.

The law seeks a permanent injunction to prevent Google from carrying out its plans.

Belgian Court Tells Google to Drop Newspaper Excerpts

BRUSSELS, Sept. 18 — A court ordered Google to remove on Monday all links to French- and German-language newspaper reports published in Belgium after an association of local publishers won a case that accused the company of violating the country's copyright laws.
The author is the principle of thrift in the proliferation of meaning

... a certain functional principle by which in our culture one limits excludes, chooses; in short by which one impedes the free circulation, the free manipulation, the free composition, decomposition, and recomposition of fiction

--Foucault
I think that, as our society changes, at the very moment when it is in the process of changing, the author-function will disappear, and in such a manner that fiction and its polysemic texts will once again function according to another mode, but still with a system of constraint--one which will no longer be the author . . .

--Foucault
kinds of change

For a long time, the unity of a book had nothing to do with an absent author ... [but] depended upon the will of a reader who desired to join diverse works ... 

... it was during the 14th century ... this traditional and dominant definition of the codex was replaced by a new conception of the book, offering the works of only one author ... the author function is not only a discursive function, but also a function of the materiality of the text
What are the modes of existence of this discourse?

Where has it been used, how can it circulate, and who can appropriate it

... What difference does it make who is speaking?