Bibliography on Copyright, compiled by Te-Hsien Huang. Halifax, N.S.: 1972. vi, 118p.

What is copyright? What acts are authorized and prohibited under the Copyright Act? These and related questions are now being posed by authors, publishers, librarians, and the general public.

The present Canadian Copyright Act came into force in 1924. Since then technological, social and economic developments have reduced the Act's worth as a guide to action. Change in this legislation is long overdue. Everyone interested in the communication of ideas is trying to impress on the Commons the necessity of resolving the contradictions between public and private interest in precise and unambiguous language.

The copyright dilemma is not resolved in the USA. There, after more than a decade of hearings, studies, and legislative debates, the rights of interested parties are not any clearer than in Canada. The recent U.S. decision in the *Williams and Wilkins* case, a lower court ruling that the photocopying service carried out by the National Library of Medicine is an infringement of copyright in journal articles, is an attempt to widen publishers' rights and restrict the general public. This decision is not a binding precedent on U.S. courts. Yet, because of the enormous economic and political power the U.S. publishing interests wield in Canada, this decision is presently having extra-territorial effect. Subscription rates for technical publications have been increased under the pretext that the rise in prices includes a license to photocopy. Even though *Williams and Wilkins* has no effect in Canada, the decision is used as a justification for increased prices, without regard for national boundaries.

The major areas of concern to publishers, authors, librarians, and the general public are the limits on photocopying and the freedom of institutions of higher learning to import books, and various aspects of the information explosion.

In this context Te-Hsien Huang's *Bibliography on Copyright* is an important contribution to the literature on copyright. The bibliography is a compilation of legal and non-legal sources on copyright, 1965-1971. In the main, English, European and American publications are the sources; this, however, is a reflection of the relative scarcity of scholarly and popular works on copyright in Canada. My two objections are to form, rather than content: the subject arrangement gives rise to an unnecessarily rigid classification of entries, and the bibliography lacks an index. The table of contents is not an adequate substitute for a subject or an author index.

With these failings, Mr. Huang's bibliography is still an important source of information on the theory of copyright. A grasp of the role of the state in copyright matters is essential if one is accurately to analyse the overall situation, and present reasoned argument for any legislative change.

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