

## **International Publishers support French Google Challenge**

*Geneva, 13 June 2006.* The International Publishers Association (IPA) welcomes and supports the court case brought against Google by the French publisher La Martinière and joined by the French publishers association, Syndicat National de l'Édition (SNE).

Says IPA President, Ana Maria Cabanellas: "We wholeheartedly support publishers and our member associations challenging Google, where it disrespects the intellectual property of others. Fundamental principles of copyright are turned on their head by Google's inconsiderate behaviour."

Adds Cabanellas: "Google believes that because of its size it can ignore the interests of writers and their publishing partners. We support those who stand up against such bullying tactics. Google must learn to act as partners and not as masters of the publishing industry."

At the centre of the proceedings is Google's refusal to obtain authorisation from the relevant copyright owners, such as publishers, before digitising in-copyright works taken from libraries as part of its Book Search programme. IPA had repeatedly in public voiced its concerns regarding Google's systematic violation of basic copyright principles.

Says Cabanellas: "Publishers want to find innovative ways to make their books available to a wide audience. Many publishers have, indeed, authorised search engines, including Google, to display parts of selected works as part of book search services. However, the Google Print Library project digitises without express authorisation."

"We therefore fully support the decision of La Martinière and SNE to have the issue resolved by the judiciary. Similar actions have been brought in the US and Germany – so the pressure is on Google to finally follow well-established legal principles."

### **Notes for Editors:**

As part of the Google Book Search Library Project, first announced in December 2004, Google has scans or intends to scan, store and index the full text of a large share of the book holdings of five major libraries in the US and the UK. This includes works in copyright where neither the author nor the publisher have authorised the making of the digital copy, its duplication or distribution on Google servers.

In September/October 2005, five US publishing houses as well as a US association representing authors commenced separate proceedings against Google for copyright violations. Similarly, in May 2006, a German publisher requested a court injunction for Google to cease its copyright violations. The outcome of these cases is still pending.

### **About IPA:**

The International Publishers Association is the international federation of trade associations representing publishers worldwide. Established in Paris in 1896, IPA now counts 78 national, regional and specialised publishers associations from 66 countries as its members. IPA's main goals are to promote freedom of expression and freedom to publish, to develop and defend the protection of copyright and to promote literacy and reading.

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