

CREATIVE COMMONS TO EXPAND ITS LICENSING PROGRAM

Internationalization of do-it-yourself licenses will help make Creative Commons a "cross-platform" legal tool

Palo Alto, US, and Berlin, Germany – March 5, 2003 – Creative Commons today launched the International Commons -- an offshoot of its licensing project dedicated to the drafting and eventual adoption of country-specific licenses. The aim of the International Commons is to "port," or adapt, the licenses for use across the different legal "operating systems" of various countries. This will involve both the literal and legal translation of the licenses by teams of volunteers in various countries around the world.

Coordinating the effort is Christiane Asschenfeldt, a copyright expert based in Berlin and the newest member of the Creative Commons team. For more information about the International Commons, please see <<http://creativecommons.org/projects/international>>.

"Since Creative Commons' founding in 2001," said Lawrence Lessig, Chairman of Creative Commons and Professor of Law at Stanford, "we've aspired to become a truly international effort. Now, with our licensing architecture in place, and with the expertise and energy of Christiane Asschenfeldt, we can begin to make the most of the generous offers of support we've received from attorneys and organizations around the world."

More about Christiane Asschenfeldt

Christiane Asschenfeldt studied law at Heidelberg University, where she developed a particular interest in the phenomenon of the Knowledge Society. In 1994 she organized a 3-day-symposium with 600 participants for the "Heidelberger Club" entitled "Challenges of the Information Society." When she continued her Law Studies at Humboldt University in Berlin, she became Research Assistant to Professor Tomuschat, Chair of the International Law Department. Upon graduation in 1998 she obtained a scholarship from the Max Planck Institute in Munich to write a doctorate on "Copyright Limitations in the Digital Age." This allowed her to combine her passion for the Arts with her experience in International Law and her interest in the Information Society. In May of 2002, she was part of a team that helped the Ministry of Justice implement the European InfoSoc Directive into German Law. Christiane has held various teaching assignments and published widely on copyright law.

Behind Creative Commons

Cyberlaw and intellectual property experts James Boyle, Michael Carroll, Molly Shaffer Van Houweling, and Lawrence Lessig, MIT computer science professor



Press Release

Hal Abelson, lawyer-turned-documentary filmmaker-turned-cyberlaw expert Eric Saltzman, and public domain Web publisher Eric Eldred founded Creative Commons in 2001. Fellows and students at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard Law School helped get the project off the ground. A non-profit corporation, Creative Commons is based at and receives generous support from Stanford Law School and the school's Center for Internet and Society. For more information, visit <<http://creativecommons.org>>.

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