# The Carrot v. The Stick: Does Copyright Enhance Access to Content?



#### Rina Elster Pantalony

Intellectual Property Manager

AltaCultura Inc., a division of MoMA

Rina\_Pantalony@moma.org pantalony@earthlink.net

#### The Landscape

- Globalization of content
- Integrated media
- Immediate reproduction and distribution

#### The Legal Landscape

- Napster
- Fair use
- First Amendment rights to free speech
- Privacy
- Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA)

### Philosophies behind Copyright

- British copyright
  — guaranteeing limited economic rights to publishers
- European/Civil copyright roots in the French Revolution giving authors fundamental rights of expression
- American copyright constitutional guarantee of the free-flow of information and the Social Contract
- Canadian copyright balancing Civil and British philosophies

#### The Social Contract Theory

- Does not balance interests
- Entrenches authors rights as economic
- Users are given limited privileges
  - guarantee First Amendment rights
  - to stimulate further artistic creativity

### The Social Contract Theory

"...the American argument for copyright stems from the conviction that encouraging individual creativity by personal gain is the best way to advance the public welfare."

Michael Shapiro, "Not Control, Progress"http://www.aam-us.org/des.htm

#### What About Access?

General View: recent case law has curtailed access to works

- Reality: Decisions have both curtailed and increased access
  - Kelly v Arriba Software
  - Tasini/National Geographic
  - Gone with the Wind/Mitchell
  - DMCA cases

## What Happens to Access When Copyright Denied

- Holders of content resort to contract law to control access to works
- Contracts are based on parties' positioning and leverage
- Statutory carve-outs, safe harbors, educational exceptions are omitted
- Parties become increasingly polarized

# The Environment in North America -Digital Irony

- Where IP protection has been denied, contract law is being substituted to control access to content on-line
- Where contract law is used in place of IP, access has become more restrictive
- Therefore, users of analogue content have greater access than users of digital content