

Mr Kenneth Fox
Clerk of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee
cmscom@parliament.uk

28th February 2006

Dear Mr Fox

I write on behalf of the National Council on Archives in response to the New inquiry: New media and the creative industries. The Council is an organisation which brings together representatives of other organisations with an interest in archives in the UK. The purpose of the Council is to seek consensus concerning policy affecting archives and their users, and to advocate on behalf of the archival sector nationally.

The Council welcome the opportunity to comment on the challenges and opportunities for the creative industries and the subsequent repositories of the work arising from the development of new media platforms.

With regard to the effects upon the various creative industries, and the repositories of their work, of unauthorised reproduction and dissemination of creative content, particularly using new technology, the Council feels that the present system of copyright for traditional media is a good starting point, although there may be cases when there may be issues around what does or doesn't constitute a publication and what a library of deposit might or might not want to collect. We highly recommend that the Inquiry takes account of the British Library's evidence, and consults the UK Film Council and the British Film Institute regarding the emerging ISBN equivalents for films and other time-based media.

The Council also would like to highlight the issue, not only of protecting creators of new media, but also issues of copyright of archival material when reused in creative formats, and manipulation of existing materials. Materials within film, television, photographic and paper-based archives are a rich source for present-day creators, but these archives often struggle to balance wider access with the need to create external funding for the use of their material. The Council hopes that the Inquiry will be able to present suggestions for fair equity in this regard.

The Council is also concerned that issues of the long-term preservation of new media should not be overlooked, whatever the outcome of the copyright and other protection mechanisms may be recommended by the Inquiry. It is a sad fact that large amount of valuable material born electronic or digital, or preserved only in electronic formats, are being lost because of the changes in platforms and the large and exponentially growing costs of digital storage. This is a problem facing many government agencies, organisations, businesses and individuals, and a clear steer from the Inquiry on the responsibilities and rights of providers, creators, and preservers of new media content, would be very welcome.

Yours sincerely,
Ruth Savage (Miss)

About you

Please use this section to tell us about yourself

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If you would like us to acknowledge receipt of your response, please tick this box	Yes please