LIBRARIES & COPYRIGHT AT THE DAWN OF THE 20TH CENTURY

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LIBRARIES & 1909 ACT ISSUES

- Two types of libraries
  - College and university libraries
  - Public libraries

- Two major issues
  - Importation of foreign produced books
  - Reproduction of copyrighted works by libraries & their users
Small, no funding for upkeep
Few exceed 20,000 through end of 19th century
3 reasons for growth
  o Rise in serial publications
  o Increase in number of colleges and therefore libraries
  o Growth of research university
PUBLIC LIBRARIES

- Peterborough, NH – 1833
  - By accident
- Boston Public – 1854
- Major cities add libraries
- Carnegie support

- Lofty goals
  - Alternative to temptations
  - Prevent public disorder
  - Haven for immigrants
IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN BOOKS

- Protectionist sentiments
  - Not dangerous if American publisher produces work by foreign author
  - Dangerous if import books by same foreign author

- Tariff intertwined with manufacturing clause

- Anti-immigrant sympathies
  - Dangerous philosophies
  - Dangerous religions
INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT MOVEMENT

- First concerted effort by libraries
  - 1888 – petitions in libraries in favor of international copyright
  - 1891 ALA presents petition to Senate
- ALA gratified by passage of 1891 Act
  - Compromise between protecting copyrights of foreign authors and
  - Desire to protect American industry
- Libraries efficiently use library privilege to import foreign-produced books
1909 PROPOSALS

- Publishers complain about efficiency & scope
- Inducement to import

- 1st – Reduce from 2 to 1 the number of books that can be imported on a single invoice
- 2nd – Require permission of author to import
1909 ACT

- Retains library importation privilege
  - Reduces from 2 to 1 copy per invoice
- Does not require permission of author
- Retains manufacturing clause
REPRODUCTION

- Antiquity – 2 ways to develop libraries
  - Spoils of war
  - Copying
- Middle Ages = monasteries as copying factories
- By 1909 there was copying in libraries beyond hand copying
  - Little concern about copyright shown by either publishers or libraries
COPYING TECHNOLOGY

Letterpress

Mimeograph
- Microphotography
- Reflex copying
- Dry plate
- Photography