

ARSC))))))

August 1, 2008
Contact: Tim Brooks
Chair, Copyright & Fair Use Committee
tbroo@aol.com

American Library Association is the sixth major organization to endorse ARSC proposal for sound recording copyright reform

The Council of the 65,000-member American Library Association has voted to endorse the Association for Recorded Sound Collections proposal that Congress direct the U.S. Copyright Office to conduct a study on the desirability of bringing sound recordings made before 1972 under federal jurisdiction. Such a study would be the first step toward realizing the first of ARSC's five major recommendations for sound recording copyright reform, to remove pre-1972 recordings from state control and place them under a single national law that provides for a public domain, fair use, and preservation exemptions for libraries and archives.

Wording for legislation to authorize the study has been prepared by ARSC and presented to the House Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet and Intellectual Property. It is being co-sponsored by Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA) and Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH).

Five other organizations have also endorsed some or all of the ARSC proposals, which are designed to encourage preservation of and access to historical recordings, a majority of which are currently inaccessible due to state laws, while respecting the legitimate interests of rights holders. The Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA) is backing the proposal for a Copyright Office study; and the International Association of Jazz Record Collectors (IAJRC), the Music Library Association (MLA), the Society for American Music (SAM) and the Society of American Archivists (SAA) has each voted to endorse all five of the ARSC reform proposals, which can be found at <http://www.arsc-audio.org/copyright-recommendations.html>.

Following is additional information on the organizations currently supporting ARSC copyright initiatives.

The American Library Association (www.ala.org) is the oldest and largest library association in the world, with approximately 65,000 members in academic, public, school, government, and special libraries. Its mission is to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. The ALA maintains an office in Washington to represent libraries on Capitol Hill.

The Association of Moving Image Archivists (www.amianet.org) is a non-profit professional association established to advance the field of moving image archiving by fostering cooperation among individuals and organizations concerned with the acquisition, description, preservation, exhibition and use of moving image materials. Moving images include film, television, video, and digital formats. AMIA advocates for the acknowledgement of moving images as important

Association for Recorded Sound Collections
P.O. Box 543
Annapolis, MD 21404-0543
www.arsc-audio.org

A R S C))))))))))

educational, historical, and cultural resources.

The International Association of Jazz Record Collectors (www.iajrc.org), which describes itself as “a meeting ground for jazz record collectors of all persuasions,” was founded in 1964 to encourage collecting and research; advance the cause of jazz music by creating more recognition of the great jazz musicians; improve communications between and among collectors, dealers, musicians and the public; and sponsor publications, recordings and conferences dedicated to jazz music.

The Music Library Association (www.musiclibraryassoc.org) is the professional association for music libraries and librarianship in the United States. It has an international membership of librarians, musicians, scholars, educators and members of the book and music trades. The MLA’s purpose is to promote the establishment, growth and use of music libraries; to increase efficiency in music library service and administration; and to promote the profession of music librarianship.

The Society for American Music (www.american-music.org) was founded in 1975 to stimulate the appreciation, performance, creation and study of American music in all its diversity, and the full range of activities and institutions associated with that music. "America" is understood to embrace North America, including Central America and the Caribbean, and aspects of its cultures everywhere in the world.

Founded in 1936, **The Society of American Archivists** (www.archivists.org) is North America's oldest and largest national archival professional association. SAA's mission is to serve the educational and informational needs of more than 5,000 individual and institutional members and to provide leadership to ensure the identification, preservation, and use of records of historical value.