



**Canadian Urban Libraries Council**  
**Conseil des Bibliothèques Urbaines du Canada**

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August 31, 2009

The Honorable Denny Chin  
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York  
500 Pearl Street  
New York, NY 10007

RE: Google Book Search Settlement - Case Number 05 CV 8136-DC

Dear Judge Chin:

The Canadian Urban Libraries Association / Conseil des Bibliothèques Urbaines du Canada (CULC/CBUC) would like to offer general support in principle to the settlement that has been reached by the three parties involved in the above cited case. The three parties, in reaching a settlement, have made an enormous contribution to making millions of books more readily available to library users in the United States.

CULC/CBUC's position and interest is one of need. Without the settlement in the United States, the probability of a subscription based service with this vast body of work being available outside the United States is very unlikely, thus limiting access to information. Even with the approval of the settlement, we are aware that challenges will remain for our Canadian institutions and users to gain access; however, the settlement is a first step. Further we believe that this might be the impetus for our government to address much needed copyright reform extending fair-use, digitization legislation, and improved access to materials for those with print disabilities.

CULC/CBUC shares many of the views and concerns of our organizational colleagues including the Urban Libraries Council, American Library Association and American Research Libraries, to name a few. We recognize this is a private settlement, but it has huge implications for the future of public library service in the United States and around the world. We respectfully submit ourselves as one of the voices of the users who will be affected. Other groups have addressed their concerns, and we share the same concerns on issues like Universal Access, subscription pricing, confidentiality and others. CULC does not need to comment specifically as those issues are well out of the Canadian jurisdiction and influence. Our support is for the concept and the leadership in making more information available to our active users.

The Canadian Urban Libraries Council / Conseil des Bibliothèques Urbaines du Canada is committed to the strengthening of vibrant urban communities through building the capacity of Canada's urban libraries. Our members collectively serve more than 7.5 million active users. We employ almost 12,500 employees that attended to more than 384 million uses at our 522 branches and through our remote services. CULC/CBUC libraries had an annual circulation in 2008 of 171,000,000 items.

Sincerely,

Jeff Barber  
Chair, Canadian Urban Libraries Association / Conseil des Bibliothèques Urbaines du Canada  
CEO, Regina Public Library

cc:

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