

COPYRIGHT

Given the need in South Africa to promote literacy and education in the broadest sense, the Publishers' Association of South Africa recognizes the right of access to information by all individuals, and acknowledges that books are central to the learning process.

It notes the concomitant rights of authors to protect their intellectual property and income, and publishers to protect the products in which they have invested skill, time and money.

Given the increasing infringements of copyright which are:

- Threatening the publishing industry;
- contravening the law (SA copyright Act no 88 of 1978, and the Berne Convention); and
- affecting the rights of authors and publishers,

The Publishers' Association of South Africa undertakes to continue its campaign to:

- a) Inform/educate the public and institutions as to the value of intellectual property and the laws which protect it;
- b) prosecute those who infringe these laws;
- c) negotiate with all institutions the best methods to overcome the problems of illegal and unlicensed photocopying of written materials, or copying of electronically stored information; and
- d) work with individuals and institutions to address those problems of book price and availability which currently limit the accessibility to books as tools of learning and advancement for students and general readers alike.
- e) explore the potential for new media to offer appropriate solutions to information dissemination in an African context and seek the most effective ways of protecting the rights of authors and publishers in the digital environment while still ensuring access by readers/without impeding access to information.