Duke Library Official Wins portal Award

Kevin Smith, Director of Scholarly Communications for the Perkins Library at Duke University, is the winner of the 2011 Johns Hopkins University Press Award for the best article in the most recent volume of the journal portal: Libraries and the Academy.

The Journals Division of the Press and portal’s Editorial Board Awards Committee selected Smith’s article “Copyright Renewal for Libraries: Seven Steps Toward a User-Friendly Law,” which appeared in Volume 10, Number 1 in January 2010.

“The article provides a new perspective on where copyright really needs reform, and gives the reader a clear treatment of a very complex topic. Smith presented an extensive and creative piece of analysis with recommendations that could have genuine and lasting impact across the worlds of publishing and education were they to be adopted,” says portal editor Sarah M. Pritchard, the Dean of Libraries and the Charles Deering McCormick University Librarian at Northwestern University.

Smith attempted to clarify some of the complexities of copyright law by suggesting seven steps toward reform that would make the law more useful for libraries. The suggestions address such issues as the predictability of the application of copyright law, specific exceptions for libraries, and ways to ensure that more copyrights remain in the hands of authors.

The winning article is judged on the quality of research methodology, on how well it places library issues in a broader academic or higher education context, whether it makes a significant contribution to the professional literature, its timeliness, and the quality of its writing.

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