Dispatch - Spring 2017

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Accessibility
Later this month, Harvard will participate in the fourth annual Fair Use Week (Feb 20–24). This is an opportunity for the University community to celebrate the Fair Use doctrine, which “facilitate[s] balance in copyright law, promoting further progress and accommodating freedom of speech and expression.” The fair use of images, text, and more in scholarly work is essential, from student dissertations to faculty publications, MOOCs, and more. Fair Use Week launched in 2014 when Kyle K. Courtney, the Office for Scholarly Communication's Program Manager and Copyright Advisor, turned the idea that was tossed out as a lark at a conference into a noteworthy event. It now enjoys the sponsorship of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and is celebrated internationally.

We invite you to explore Harvard-based Fair Use Week festivities and read guest posts on the OSC’s copyright blog, all of which can be accessed via the OSC’s Fair Use Week webpage: bit.ly/fairuseweek17.

FEATURED WORK: LANGUAGES OF THE HEART — Megan Mizuta, Open Access Fellow with the OSC

In “Languages of the Heart: The Biomedical and the Metaphorical in American Fiction” (available in DASH), Harvard professor David Jones uses 20th-century American fiction to demonstrate the persistent role of metaphor in understanding heart disease. By examining heart disease in texts ranging from The Story of An Hour (1894) to Rabbit at Rest (1990), Jones finds that metaphor remains indispensible in the conversation about heart disease despite dramatic changes in treatment options. In this literary and historical analysis, Jones examines how metaphor mediates the clinical exchange, where physicians explain heart disease as a plumbing problem. Likewise, despite the availability of technical language that has developed alongside surgical and pharmacologic treatments, Jones finds that characters return to metaphor to fully articulate the experience of their disease. By first recognizing the centrality metaphor in the discourse between doctor and patient, and patient and self, Jones posits that caregiver and patient can make the fullest use of the “rich possibilities of metaphor.”

By using literary and historical analysis to draw conclusions about how heart disease is discussed, Jones demonstrates the importance of the humanities to medicine, a cause that he argues for in “A Complete Medical Education Includes the Arts and Humanities,” also available in DASH.

The OSC is pleased to announce that DASH, Harvard’s open-access repository has passed the milestone of 10 MILLION DOWNLOADS since its inception in 2009.

YOUR STORIES MATTER

Open access not only provides the information but accelerates adoption of innovative practice that otherwise would not be available nor accessible to less-advanced countries like ours, improving patient outcomes and avoiding costly trial-and-error.

Feedback from a health care worker in the Philippines, related to the 2012 article “The SMART Platform: early experience enabling substitutable applications for electronic health records,” downloaded nearly 1200 times from DASH.