Michigan Publishing Backlist Rights and Permissions Project

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Introduction

Michigan Publishing has been digitizing the entire backlist for the University of Michigan Press, its marquee imprint, of roughly 4,000 titles since 2010. The aim of this project is to preserve all titles within Hathi Trust and make as many of these titles available as possible. In 2013 Michigan Publishing undertook a Rights and Permissions project to evaluate the rights and effect use cases for titles included in the collection. As of March 2015, this project has expanded to include cataloging of all permissions information in the physical files, and has accounted for the rights assessment of more than 2,000 backlist titles.

WHAT DO WE HAVE?

Cataloging and Digitization Process
- Catalog titles for all 6 Press archives
- Organize titles into batches for shipment to vendor
- Perform QC on batches and add page enumeration and section marker tags to titles
- Prepare titles for ingest into Hathi Trust repository for preservation and begin Rights and Permissions Review Process to determine use cases for titles

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Rights and Permissions Review Process
- Search department metadata for contract number by title
- Verify pub date and other copyright and permission info
- Begin research of titles within mandatory renewal period (1923-1963)
- Research author for cases in which copyright was retained by/reverted back to author.
- Review title file for permissions issues, contributor agreements, sub-rights issues, and other issues affecting publishing rights
- Review notes from entire process to categorize title for future decision making

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Considerations for Title Use Cases
- Subject?
- Title still active in print?
- Competing Title in Print?
- Too many permissions issues?
- Author not amenable?
- Other factors?

Current Breakdown of Rights & Permissions Research
- 3954 Titles Digitized
- 2281 Reviewed
- 299 Titles with one use case
- 1085 Titles with more than one use case
- 897 with no use case