



Promoting Authorship for the Public Good by Supporting Authors Who Write to Be Read

The advent of global digital networks provides authors with unprecedented potential to reach new readers. The Authors Alliance represents the interests of authors who want to harness this potential to share knowledge and products of the imagination more broadly in order to serve the public good.

Unfortunately, authors face many barriers that prevent the full realization of this potential to enhance public access to knowledge and creativity. Authors who are eager to share their existing works may discover that those works are out of print, un-digitized, and subject to copyrights signed away long before the digital age. Authors who are eager to share new works may feel torn between publication outlets that maximize public access and others that restrict access but claim to provide value in terms of peer review and prestige, or even fame and fortune.

The mission of Authors Alliance is to further the public interest in facilitating widespread access to works of authorship by helping authors navigate the opportunities and challenges of the digital age. Hence our slogan: “Promoting authorship for the public good by supporting authors who write to be read.” To this end, Authors Alliance will provide information and tools designed to help authors better understand and manage key legal, technological, and institutional aspects of the dissemination of works of authorship in the digital age. We will also be a voice for authors in discussions about public and institutional policies that might promote or inhibit broad dissemination.

Efforts on which Authors Alliance will focus include:

Digitization: helping authors serve the public by pursuing opportunities to digitize their works, disseminate them widely, and preserve digital copies for future generations of readers.

Access: helping authors understand and manage the legal rights necessary to make their works publicly available and reusable.

Discovery: supporting and promoting the curation of knowledge by journals, libraries, archives, and other institutions that help authors communicate with their audiences and help readers identify especially relevant and rigorous works of authorship.

Integrity, Attribution, and Academic Freedom: encouraging authors to contribute knowledge and ideas to the public by supporting efforts to ensure that authors are credited for work that accurately reflects their contribution to public knowledge.

The founding Board of Directors of the Authors Alliance consists of four UC Berkeley professors: Carla Hesse (Department of History and Dean of Social Sciences), Thomas Leonard (School of Journalism and University Librarian), Pamela Samuelson (Berkeley Law School and School of Information), and Molly Shaffer Van Houweling (Berkeley Law School). Our initial Advisory Board includes:



- **danah boyd**, Principal Researcher at Microsoft Research, Research Assistant Professor in Media, Culture, and Communication at New York University, and Fellow at the Berkman Center for Internet and Society;
- **Paul Brest**, Former Hewlett Foundation President; Professor of Law, Emeritus, and Former Dean, Stanford Law School;
- **Paul Courant**, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Economics and Information, Harold T. Shapiro Collegiate Professor of Public Policy, and former Dean of Libraries at the University of Michigan;
- **Robert Darnton**, Harvard University Librarian and Carl H. Pforzheimer Professor of History;
- **Cory Doctorow**, fiction writer, activist, blogger, and journalist;
- **Michael Eisen**, Professor of Genetics, Genomics, and Development at UC Berkeley and PLOS Cofounder;
- **Edward Felten**, Robert E. Kahn Professor of Computer Science and Public Affairs and Director of the Center for Information Technology Policy at Princeton University;
- **Michael Geist**, Professor of Law and the Canada Research Chair in Internet and E-commerce Law at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law;
- **Katie Hafner**, writer and journalist;
- **Lewis Hyde**, poet, essayist, translator, cultural critic, and Richard L. Thomas Professor of Creative Writing at Kenyon College;
- **Joi Ito**, Director of the MIT Media Lab and former CEO of Creative Commons;
- **Brewster Kahle**, Digital Librarian and Founder at the Internet Archive;
- **Kevin Kelly**, Senior Maverick Editor and founding Executive Editor at Wired Magazine;
- **Lawrence Lessig**, Director of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics and Roy L. Furman Professor of Law at Harvard University;
- **Jonathan Lethem**, novelist, essayist, short story writer, and the Roy Edward Disney Professor in Creative Writing at Pomona College;
- **Donald Lamm**, Former President and Chairman, W.W. Norton Publishing Company;
- **Robert Pinsky**, 39th Poet Laureate of the United States, Founder of the Favorite Poem Project, and Professor of Creative Writing at Boston University;
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- **Randy Schekman**, Howard Hughes Investigator and Professor of Cell and Developmental Biology at UC Berkeley and Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine;
- **Sidonie Smith**, Martha Guernsey Colby Collegiate Professor of English and Women's Studies and Chair of the Department of English at the University of Michigan, former President of the Modern Language Association;
- **Harold Varmus**, co-founder of Public Library of Science, Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine;
- **Eric von Hippel**, T. Wilson (1953) Professor in Management and Professor of Management and Systems Engineering at MIT; and
- **Jonathan Zittrain**, Professor of Law and Computer Science at Harvard University, and Co-Founder and Director of the Berkman Center for Internet & Society.

The Authors Alliance is now accepting founding members. To join, please fill out the form at <http://bit.ly/Sbn67A> or send an inquiry to info@authorsalliance.org.