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The Google Settlement One Year Later

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THE GOOGLE SETTLEMENT ONE YEAR LATER

presented by Anthony Watkinson, Moderator (Senior Lecturer, Centre for Publishing, University College London)

Jan Constantine (General Counsel, Authors Guild)

Allan Adler (Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs, American Association of Publishers)

Peter Givler (Executive Director, Association of American University Presses) joined the panel.

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Watkinson began this interesting plenary session by introducing the panel, thanking them for their participation so close to the expected November 9th ruling, and summarizing a previously distributed handout that outlined eight major library concerns related to the Google Book Settlement. Adler discussed how the settlement came to be and gave a brief history of events leading up to the litigation. Constantine focused on author issues and the Google print program and Givler talked about how a complex problem had been tackled and brought to a reasonable conclusion and indicated, as did the other panelists, that it will be interesting to see the revised settlement. Some illuminating discussions followed around distinctions between the ways commercially available and out of print material will be treated, whether or not innovation and competition will be stifled, the need for legal oversight, what fair institutional pricing will look like, issues related to the privacy of individuals accessing material, and the impact of loss of access to illustrations not found in picture books. Adler made the final point in the discussion by wondering what will happen if a settlement is not reached and he concluded that the best alternative is a Google Settlement.