

From: Lynn H. Nelson [lhnelson@raven.cc.ku.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2006 7:40 AM
To: Noiret, Serge
Cc: inaki Lopez Martin; George Laughead; Lynn H. Nelson; Tim Berners-Lee
Subject: Regarding the Use of the Globe and Book Logo

Dear Serge;

You may use this note as you see fit and share it with whomever you wish.

On 6 March, 1993 - and with the help of Marc Becker, Lou Montuli, Richard Rezac and Michael Grobe, I put the LYNX-based text browser "HNSource" into operation. Don Mabry [djm1@Ra.MsState.Edu], who demonstrated its use at the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London on that occasion, can corroborate this date and event.

In early September, 1993, Lou Montulli, a member of the University of Kansas' Academic Computing Center contacted Berners-Lee and/or Arthur Secret regarding their intention of expanding the WWW-VL established by Berners-Lee at CERN. I was contacted by Arthur Secret, asking me to change my site to http/html and to take on the task of indexing of web sites dealing with History. The KU LYNX development team supported this request, and I could hardly refuse the people who had already taught me so much. Anyhow, it sounded like fun. Lou went to work developing a program for converting KUInfo and HNSource, the University's two LYNX facilities into WWW sites.

During the conversion, Arthur Secret and Tim Berners-Lee gave me direction on the proper format of the main page. I was also given the globe and book logo to link to the Central Catalogue that Arthur would maintain. I downloaded a copy of this image for safe-keeping - there was a steady turnover of personnel at the Academic Computing Center, and, as a consequence, a danger of losing materials. I began the operation of <http://kuinfo.cc.ukans.edu/history/WWW_history_main.html>, (Note that I had no idea what a web page should be called) on 21 September 1993, a date of which I am quite sure since it was my sixty-second birthday.

In succeeding years, I continued to use the logo I had been given at the start of things on my main page as well as the numerous secondary pages the main catalogue began to spawn. Even after Michael Chapman developed an altered globe and book logo - sufficiently distinguished from the original (which was then in wide and uncontrolled use) as to be qualified for copyright, I continued to use the original logo.

I had also received the name "WWW-VL" from Tim Berners-Lee or by Arthur Secret as his agent, and displayed both logo and name in an uninterrupted fashion from the first day to the present. The only person who can claim priority of use or ultimate ownership of name and logo is Tim Berners-Lee and he is the only person who can legitimately tell me to discontinue my use of them.

I would be happy to submit an attested and witnessed version of this account if it were to prove helpful in securing the peaceful operation and development of the WWW-VL History Network.

Lynn

Lynn Harry Nelson
Professor Emeritus
University of Kansas
1631 Alabama Street
Lawrence KS 66044-4033
USA

Postscript -

I might note two items for you interest.

1. As a member of the post-Arthur Secret WWW-VL council, I once suggested to the other members that we should decide upon a single name for the organization since other members had adopted a variety of titles. I was in the minority of those preferring to keep the name WWW-VL. Another member of that minority was the force behind incorporating the organization in Switzerland as WWW-VL.

2. Michael Chapman developed the book and globe logo as a response to the observation that many sites that were nor members of the organization were displaying the logo. He made it - as I have said - sufficiently different as to be distinguishable from the original and to claim a copyright of his modification. It would seem to me that this would imply that the logo used by the WWW-VL History Network is sufficiently different from his own, copyrighted image that it cannot -- by his own intent - constitute an infringement.

Lynn