



July 6, 2006

Dr. Allen Weinstein  
Archivist of the United States  
National Archives Building  
700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20408

Dear Dr. Weinstein,

We are writing on behalf of the American Association of Law Libraries, the American Library Association, the Association of Research Libraries, and the Special Libraries Association to raise a concern with you about the agreement that we understand is under discussion between the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and Google to digitize records in the possession of NARA.

We do not have any concerns with the Archives working with Google to make the record of our government more easily accessible by the public. We are writing to express our deep concern about the ownership – physical and legal – of both the underlying documents and the subsequent digital data files. We believe that such ownership must remain with NARA and the U.S. Government.

We appreciate that a project of this size and scope presents technological challenges. If NARA is unable to provide long-term preservation and access to these digital files, we encourage you to explore other options within the Government, in both the Legislative and Executive branches, where such capabilities may reside. We strongly urge you to ensure that both physical and legal ownership of the files remain with the U.S. Government through the National Archives and Records Administration or a governmental agent.

Thank you for your interest in our concerns. If you have any questions, please contact Prue Adler of the Association of Research Libraries at 202-296-2296 or Lynne Bradley of the American Library Association at 202-628-8410.

Sincerely,

Prudence Adler  
Association of Research Libraries

Lynne Bradley  
American Library Association

Mary Alice Baish  
American Association of Law Libraries

Douglas Newcomb  
Special Library Association