

Copyright for Online Exhibits and Collections: Hypotheticals

With a partner, review the hypotheticals below. Be prepared to share your answers and discuss them with the group.

Question 1

You are preparing an online exhibit about Mark Twain (1835-1910) and his influence on American humor. The online exhibit will be open to the public. You would like to include the following items (as well as many others not listed here):

- Digital images of the 1885 U.S. first edition of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, including the cover, text illustrating Twain's use of dialect, and several of the original illustrations
- Letters between Twain and his daughter Clara, who died in 1962
- A memoir of Twain written by a U-M alum whose grandparents were neighbors of Twain's. The alum donated the memoir to the university along with his personal archive in 1950.
- Clips from the award ceremony of the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor in which Richard Pryor (1998), Lily Tomlin (2003), and Tina Fey (2010) accept the prize

How will you address the copyright issues for each of these items? Are there any facts missing that would impact your decision? For each of the items you decide to put online, decide how you would respond to a permissions request from a patron.

Question 2

You would like to digitize the personal archive of a prominent U-M alum and host it as an online collection. The online collection could be open to the public, or you could require authentication for access. The alum was born in 1895 and died in 1975. The archive was donated to the university by the alum's estate in 1978. The archive includes the following items (as well as similar items not listed here):

- Organizational records for a business founded by the alum, dated 1920 to 1960
- Photographs whose subjects, format, and condition indicates they were taken between 1893 and 1975
- A 1968 issue of *Time* magazine that includes a cover story on the alum
- Journals the alum wrote sporadically from 1940 to 1975
- Newspaper clippings that the alum saved

How will you address the copyright issues for each of these items? Will you open the collection to the public, or will you require authentication? Are there any facts missing that would impact your decision? For each of the items you decide to put online, decide how you would respond to a permissions request from a patron.

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