



WORLD WIDE WEB VIRTUAL LIBRARY

<http://vlib.org/>

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

31st October 2005

Dear Serge,

Dear Inaki,

Serge will recall that in June I advocated the retention of a claim to 'database rights' for the WWWVL on the front page of our history library.

Just in case you have forgotten what the page used to look like, I attach a snapshot:

... .. [see over]



This page is still available in the Google cache, where the the following information is appended: "G o o g l e's cache of <http://rmweb.indiana.edu/History/VL/index.html> as retrieved on 18 Jun 2005 16:51:13 GMT. G o o g l e's cache is the snapshot that we took of the page as we crawled the web."

The actual coding of the page footer as cached by Google is:

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<p align="center"> <font size="2"><a href="http://vlib.org/admin/AboutVL">About</a>
| <a href="http://vlib.org/AlphaVL">Alphabetical Listing</a> | <a href="http://vlib.org/admin/AboutVL#<
| <a href="http://vlib.org/admin/donors">Donors</a> | <a href="http://vlib.org/admin/Constitution">Cons<
<center>
<font size="2">These pages and the database <a href="http://vlib.org/admin/Copyright">©
WWW Virtual Library</a> 1991-latest update.<br />
All rights reserved, including <a href="http://interarb.com/vl/dbrights">database
rights</a>. <br />
<i>The WWW Virtual Library ('The 'VL') is an &quot;association sans but
lucratif&quot;, established in the Canton and Republic of Geneva. </i>
</font>
</center>
<p align="center"><a name="shinystat"></a>
```

The above (the two words 'Google cache') is an active hyperlink to the page in question. I trust you will both visit that (and the other links in this document) so that there will be no later argument about what has been stated on the IUE.it server, or about what is stated here in this letter.

Serge, I recall, thought the database rights issue was not a 'big thing' and the matter was left to pass.


The VL history pages, did though continue to clearly state the owner of their copy-right.

For example the October 3rd update showed the following text:

	Home , see now History of the Classical World - Medieval Britain - Medieval Europe - Early Modern History (In German only) - The Cold War
<p>The address of the WWW-VL History Central catalogue is: [http://vlib.iue.it/] - The USA Mirror is at: [http://rmweb.indiana.edu/History/VL/index.html]</p> <p>Last updated, 3 October, 2005</p>	
<p> WWW-VL Mirrors: vlib.org (CH), East Anglia (UK).</p> <p>About Alphabetical Listing Contact Donors Constitution/By-laws</p> <p>These pages and the database © WWW Virtual Library 1991-latest update. <i>The WWW Virtual Library ('The VL') is an "association sans but lucratif" established in the Canton and Republic of Geneva.</i></p>	
<small>Visite.tot 195929  ShiouStat™ Online 1</small>	

If you need to view this, a copy is still available at the Indiana mirror site.

So we were somewhat surprised to see that you had removed the statement of ownership

	Home , see now History of the Classical World - Medieval Europe - Early Modern History (In German only) - The Cold War
<p>The address of the WWW-VL History Central catalogue is: [http://vlib.iue.it/] The USA Mirror is at: [http://rmweb.indiana.edu/History/VL/index.html]</p> <p>Last updated, 25 October, 2005</p>	
<small>Visite.tot 195929  ShiouStat™ Online 1</small>	

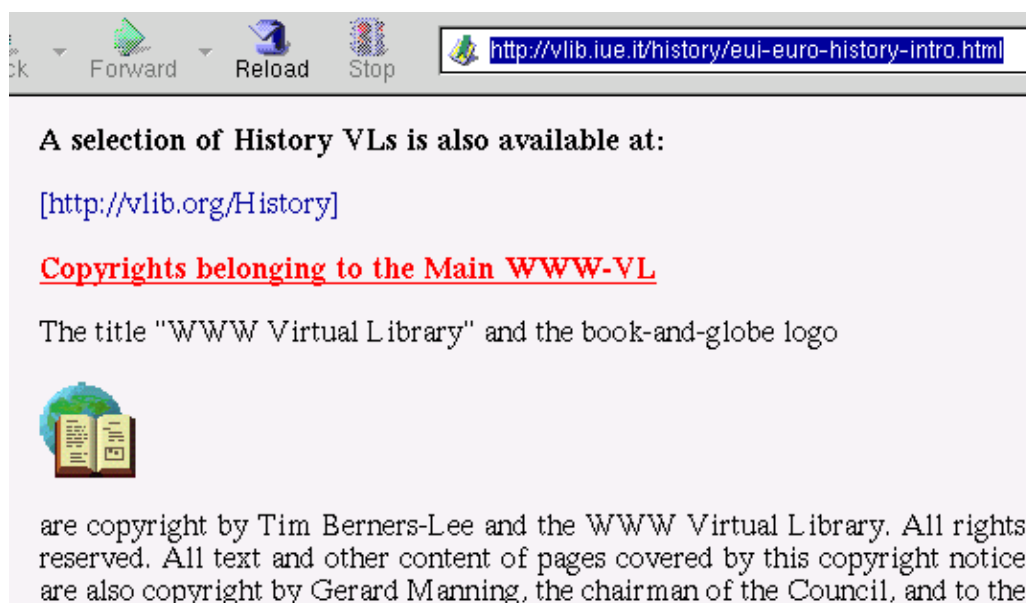
See for example the current site.

Obviously removing the statement does not remove the ownership! It is though likely to confuse users.

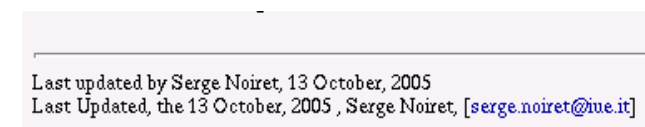
You will, I am sure, be aware that Google caches the contents of pages and not their associated images. So the above snapshots whilst accurate as to the text of the pages may not be accurate as to any images displayed with the text. (Likewise the Indiana mirror has an absolute link back to the logo at IUE and does not mirror that image.)

Indeed as you must be aware you have also changed the logo that you display on the site.

You obviously know that even the old logo that our history library is currently displaying is copyright as on vlib.iue.it/history/eui-euro-history-intro.html you state:



and you only updated that page recently:



Your statement of copyright ownership is false¹, as I pointed in correspondence earlier this year about the false and misleading statements that were eventually to appear on the vlib.us site. A correspondence Serge played an active role in and from which I hope you had the chance to be informed of the true situation from my contributions. (At the risk of stating the obvious: The Association's logo (in all its various forms) is the property of our association, The World Wide Web Virtual Library.)

If either of you really has grounds to doubt the word of the Association's Secretary and former Treasurer about the Association's ownership of its own logo I feel you both should address these matters in a proper way and not make some "unilateral, . . . and autonomous

¹as, incidentally, are many other statements on that page

decision” (to quote Serge’s own words) about the subject.







Also after Serge’s pooh-poohing the need to assert database rights, I was rather surprised that Serge has attempted to assert these on his ‘own’ page at vlib.iue.it/history/Index.html, in the following terms:

©Legal protection of databases: the WWW Virtual Library and the WWW VL Italian History Index asserts its rights to database rights in addition to its rights under copyright, trademark, and other legislations. The European Union, Directive 96/9/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 1996 on the legal protection of databases provides protection for the intellectual creation that is a database, plus protection for the "sweat of the brow" effort of making such databases (that is also for the non-intellectual effort).

I suppose I should be flattered that the first four words are a hyperlink back to text that I wrote and that is then quoted by Serge.



The hour (and minute) that the logo was changed (on October 26th) is duly recorded on the IUE server:

	Turkey-icon.jpg.LCK	21-May-04 09:36	1k
	VL.gif	29-Mar-04 16:10	2k
	VL.png	26-Oct-05 10:49	2k
	VL.png.LCK	12-Jan-05 11:05	1k
	ViewDuomoVSP.jpg	29-Nov-04 15:25	17k
			

The logo you currently display is:



whilst the correct one is that at the top of the first page of this letter.

If there are good reasons for what you have, jointly or severally, done could you each communicate those **immediately**, if there are not and this is all some unfortunate collusion of errors can you each please ensure matters return to the previous situation **forthwith**.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Chapman
Secretary
The WWW Virtual Library

The hyperlinks in the electronic version of this document are active. But just for the record (and to enable you to check that you have visited them all to confirm what is stated and illustrated here), they are:
<http://64.233.183.104/search?q=cache:uCWGsNi6tQoJ:rmweb.indiana.edu/History/VL/index.html+site:rmweb.indiana.edu/History/VL/+history&hl=en>
<http://rmweb.indiana.edu/History/VL/index.html>
<http://vlib.iue.it/history/index.html>
<http://vlib.iue.it/history/eui-euro-history-intro.html>
<http://vlib.iue.it/hist-italy/Index.html>