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# Copyright's Impact

A 20 Year Informetric Study of the  
Library and Information Science  
Copyright Literature as Indexed in  
Library Literature

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# Outline

- Background
- Importance of Copyright
- The Study
- Literature Review
- Research Objectives
- Methodology
- Analysis and Discussion
- Conclusions

# Background

- libraries and librarians have always been affected by copyright law as they are in the business of distributing information
- the importance of copyright law, due to its obvious impact on the fundamental material of the field, information, suggests that there should be an extensive body of copyright literature in librarianship

# Importance of Copyright

- copyright is an important area of contemporary concern to both professional librarians and library and information science scholars due to growing pressure to alter the traditional balance between creators and users

# The Study

- examine the body of LIS copyright literature from 1984-2003 as indexed in the database Library Literature
- literature will be examined for growth patterns, characteristics of authorship and publication trends
- trends will be compared to changes in anglo-american copyright law and international treaties

# Literature Review

- bibliometric studies have been used to judge a body of work in a field as to its publication and authorship trends, fields of study, country/language affiliations of authors and journals
- studies have also attempted to tie policy indicators into bibliometric results for example to compare research output in various countries to policy planning at the national level

# Research Objectives

- 1) What trends are apparent in the body of library science copyright literature over the 20 year period of this study?
- 2) Does this copyright related literature fit standard informetric laws such as Lotka's law and Bradford's law?
- 3) Is there evidence in the bibliometric data of strong influences from factors such as increasing use of the Internet and changes to copyright laws?

# Methodology – Source of Data

- Library Literature - library and information science oriented database
- index in which copyright is a key term ensuring that items retrieved have all been indexed as being about copyright
- study covers 20 years of time since data prior to 1984 is not applicable



# Methodology – Selection of Data

- all items with a subject of copyright were retrieved for this study using the expert search function
- 2834 items retrieved
- total includes articles, books, book reviews and opinion pieces
- data were converted to a spreadsheet readable format
- data were examined visually and with software tools for anomalies

# Methodology – Data Analysis

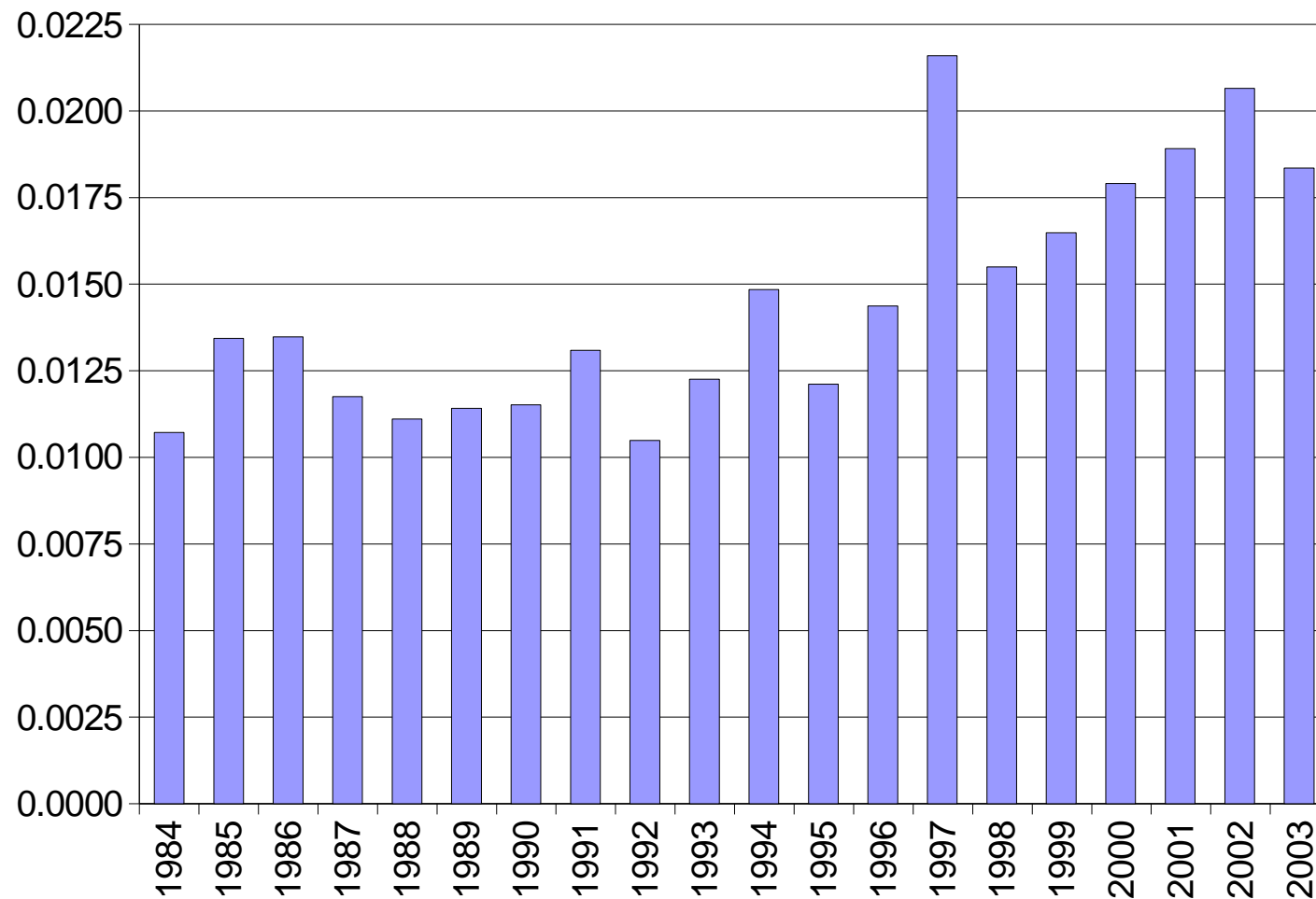
- data on the copyright related items was analysed descriptively, graphically and statistically using SPSS and a spreadsheet
- data was examined for authorship trends, journal publishing trends, distribution of publications by language and country, and literature growth over the 20 year period
- trends in the data were examined with an eye to changes in the literature based on historical markers in copyright history over the past 20 years

# Analysis and Discussion

- 1)Literature growth
- 2)Document types
- 3)Authorship trends
- 4)Most Common Journals
- 5)Publication Trends
- 6)Effect of copyright legislation on the literature

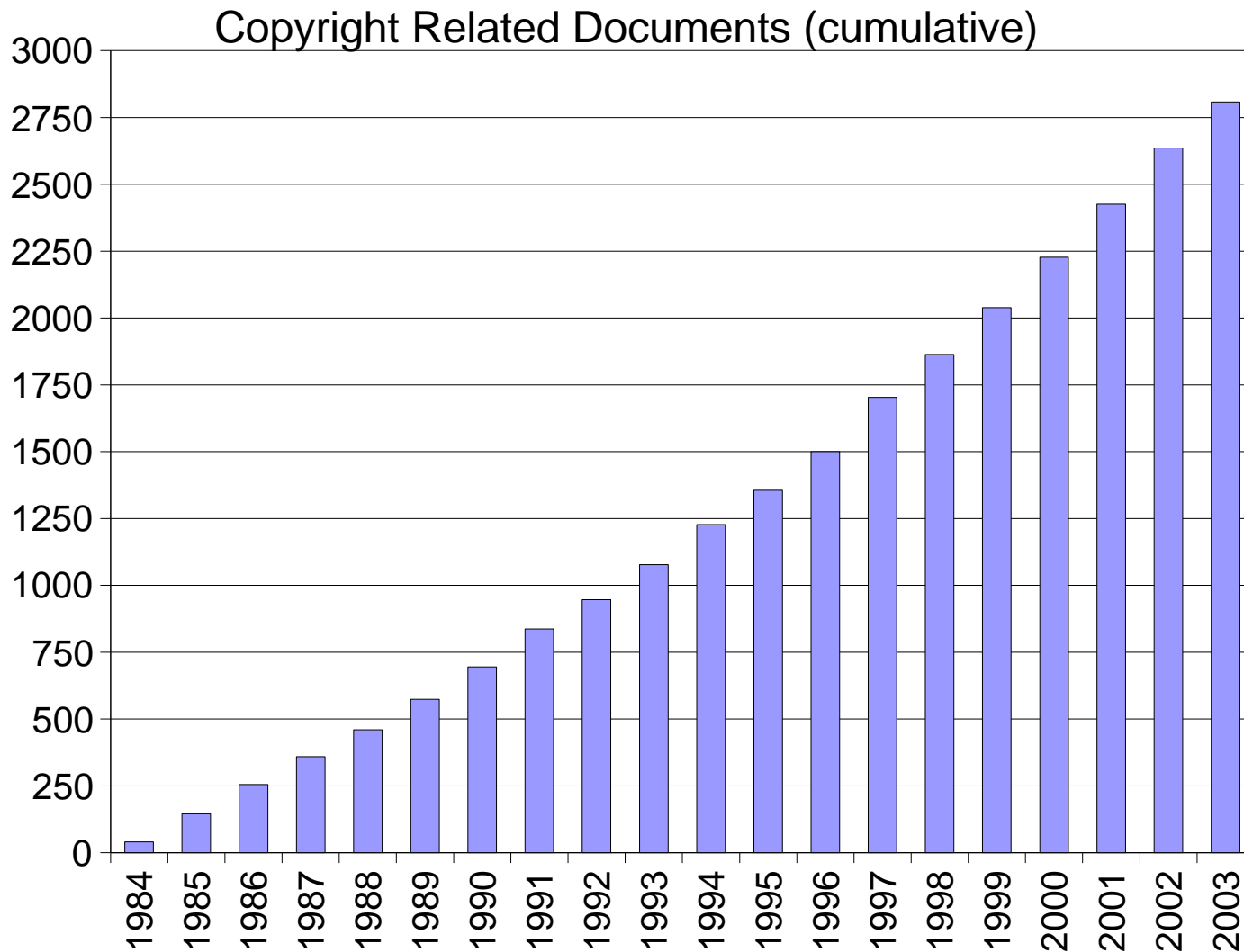
# Literature Growth

Copyright Related Documents (normalised)



- data was normalised to show that the spikes are not just due to a greater number of total publications that year in all subjects

# Literature Growth



- the number of copyright related items is increasing overall even though the total number of articles per year may drop in a particular year

# Document Types

Document Types			
Document Type	Frequency	Cumulative	Percent
article	2606	2606	91.95
book review	135	2741	4.76
monograph	56	2797	1.98

- articles allow faster dissemination of information than books

# Authorship Trends

- 1291 distinct authors or groups (e.g. corporations, organisations)
- only 146 authors co-authored papers, all others were sole authors
- 362 items had no author listed

Author	Articles
Fields, Howard	144
Reid, Calvin	77
Gasaway, Laura N	73
Russell, Carrie	33
Taylor, Sally Adamson	28
Ensign, David	28
Strauch, Arnold Bruce	20
Cornish, G. P. (Graham Peter)	18
Oppenheim, Charles	18
Norman, Sandy	17

# Authorship Trends 2

## Authors and Works

Articles	Authors	Percent
1	1016	78.7
2	140	10.84
3	42	3.25
4	20	1.55
5	19	1.47
6-10	34	2.63
11-20	14	1.08
21-50	3	0.23
51-100	2	0.15

- 79% (1016) of authors contributed only one article
- higher than predicted for a field of study



# Most Common Journals

## Top 10 Journals by Article Count

Journal Name	Articles	Percent
Publishers Weekly	511	18.03
Against the Grain	132	4.66
Library Journal	111	3.92
Library of Congress Information Bulletin	110	3.88
Information Outlook	88	3.11
Library Association Record	85	3.00
School Library Journal	50	1.76
American Libraries	45	1.59

- top 10 items are professional publications
- top 9 are English
- published in US or UK

- 245 distinct journals

# Most Common Journals 2

- articles related to copyright are not concentrated in a small set of journals:
  - 76 journals (31%) had only 1 article; 26 (11%) with 2 articles, 29 (12%) with 3 articles, and 32 (13%) with 4-5 articles
- 89% of journals have published 19 or fewer articles over the 20 year period of the study:
  - less than 1 article per year.

# Publication Trends

## Journal Spread by Country and Language

Country	Journals	Percent
USA	132	54.32
UK	33	13.58
International	11	4.53
Germany	11	4.53
Canada	7	2.88
France	6	2.47
Australia	5	2.06
Russia	4	1.65
Netherlands	4	1.65
Denmark	3	1.23

Language	Journals	Percent
English	193	78.78
German	11	4.49
Multilingual	9	3.67
French	8	3.27
Russian	4	1.63
Italian	3	1.22
Dutch	3	1.22
Suomi	2	0.82
Portuguese	2	0.82
Norwegian	2	0.82

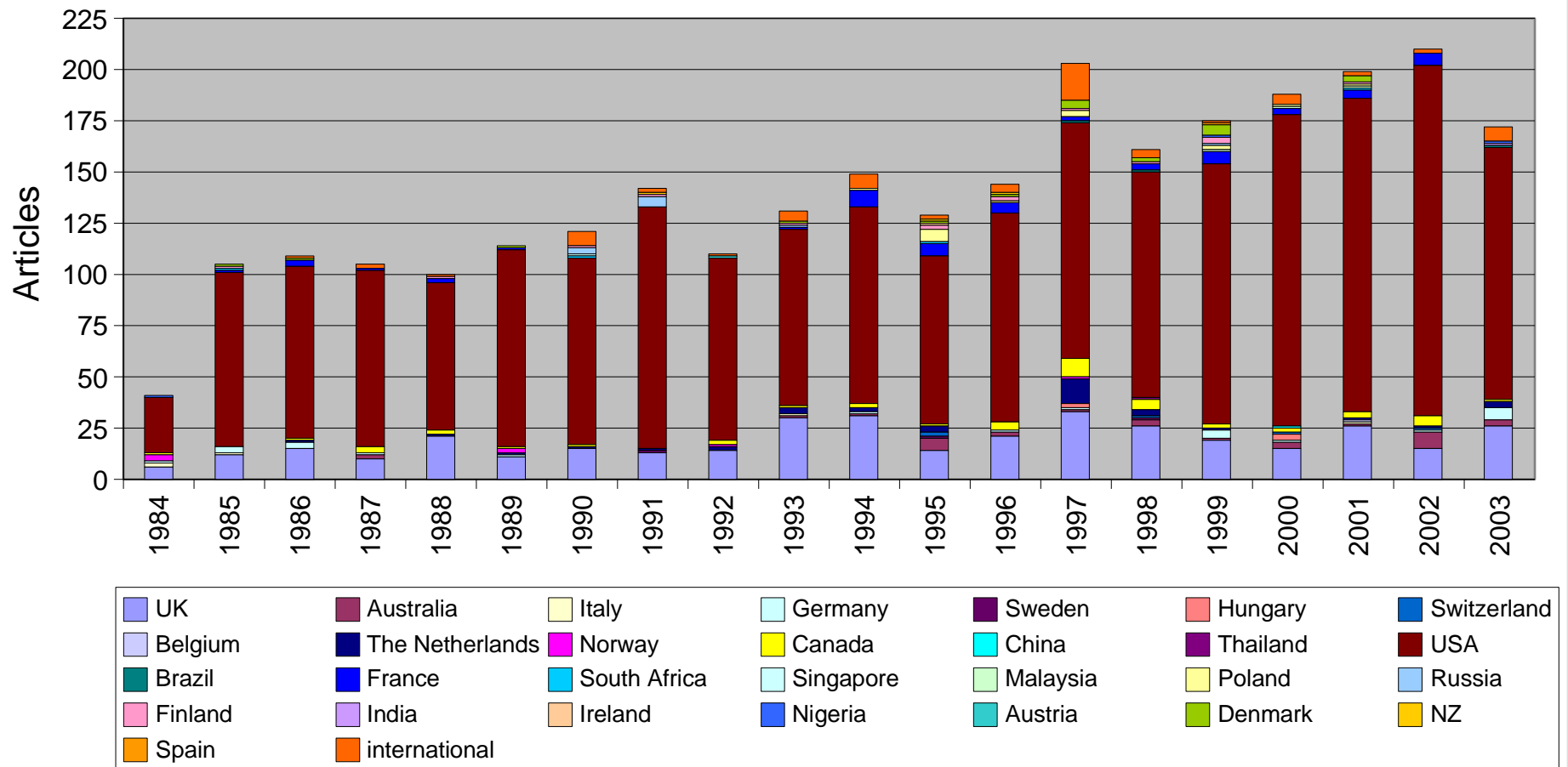
# Publication Trends 2

## Article Spread by Country and Language

Country	Articles	Percent
USA	2086	73.61
UK	375	13.23
International	71	2.51
France	52	1.83
Canada	47	1.66
Netherlands	36	1.27
Australia	32	1.13
Germany	24	0.85
Denmark	20	0.71
Poland	15	0.53

Language	Articles	Percent
English	2574	90.83
Multilingual	60	2.12
French	54	1.91
Dutch	35	1.24
German	25	0.88
Danish	18	0.64
Polish	15	0.53
Suomi	15	0.53
Russian	11	0.39
Norwegian	8	0.28

# Articles per Country separated by Year

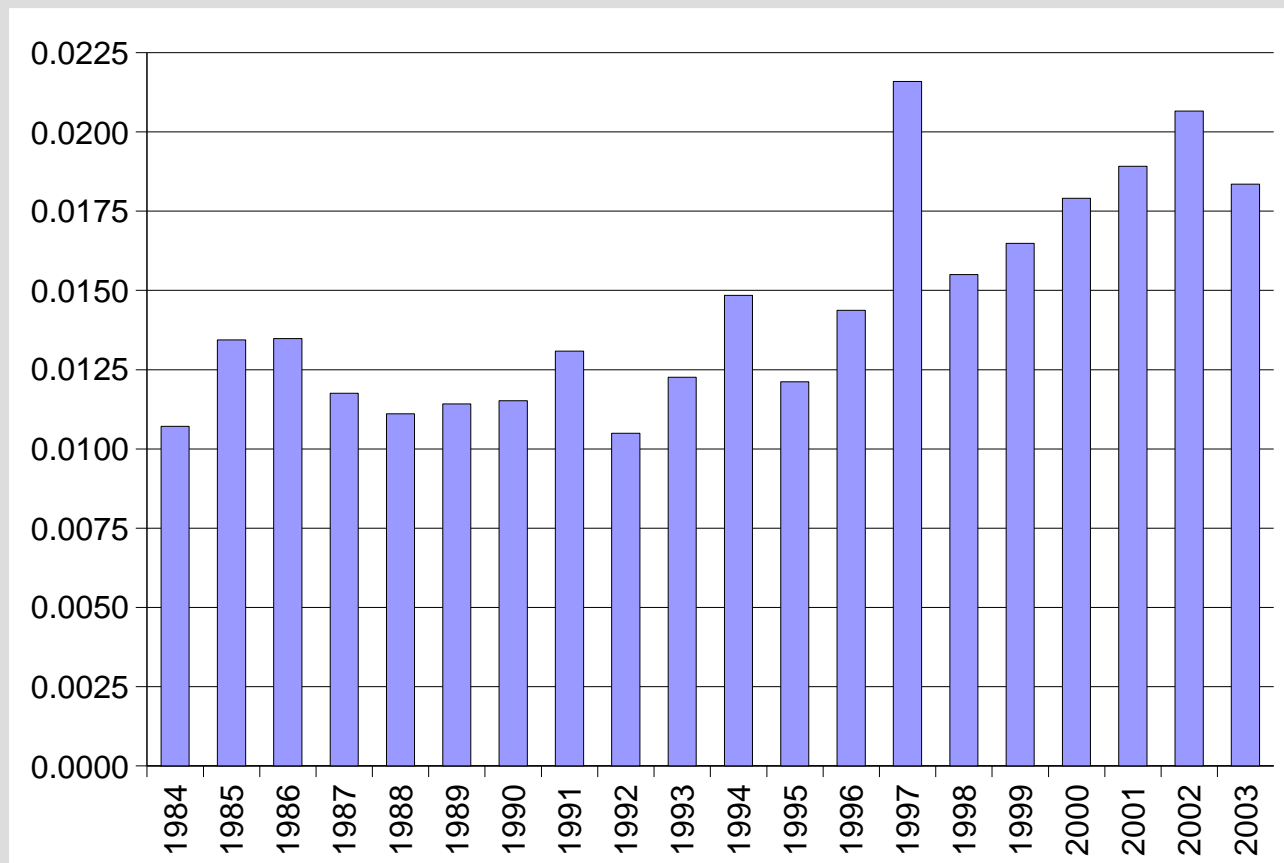


# Effects of Copyright Legislation

- can changes to copyright related legislation, laws and treaties be seen in the overall patterns of LIS copyright literature?
- a visual examination of the graph, should show a peak near the year associated with a major change in copyright law or international trade treaties
- the peaks will be examined to see if they correspond to major changes in US, Canadian or UK copyright law, and to major intellectual property related treaties

# Effects of Copyright Legislation

The peak in 1997 (and 1994)



Legislation:

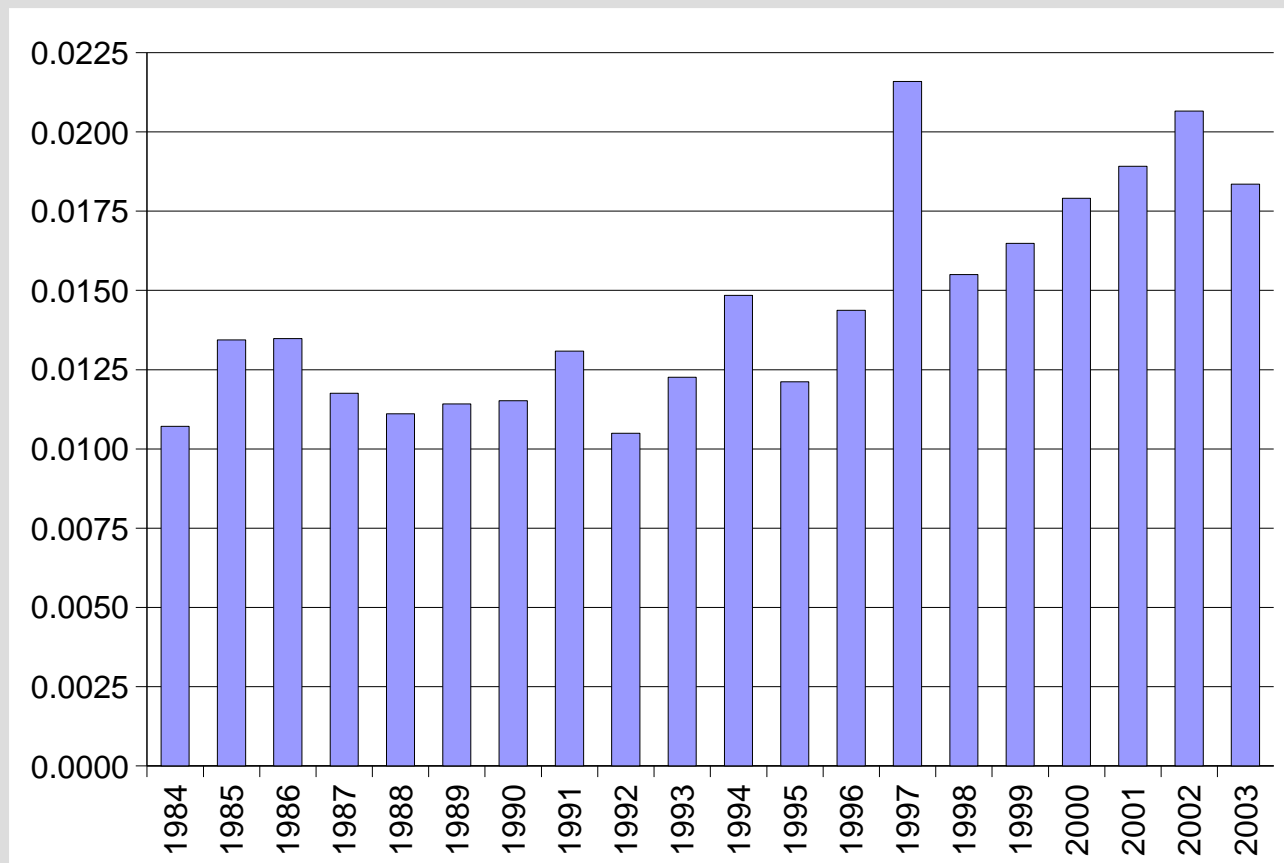
- DMCA 1998
- WIPO copyright treaty 1996
- TRIPS 1995

# Effects of Copyright Legislation

1989-1991, 1999-2002

Legislation:

- DMCA  
1998
- US signs  
Berne  
1989





# Conclusions

- there is a body of copyright related literature in library and information science
- a significant number of items in this study were articles
- most works had only one author
- the literature is very spread out (245 distinct journals)
- most prolific countries were US and UK
- English was the most common language

# Conclusions

- changes in the literature appear to be related to important changes in anglo-american or international copyright law
  - (e.g. the peak in the literature in 1997 around the time of the signing of three major international treaties pertaining to copyright)
- it is likely that recent copyright related court cases in Canada such as the Supreme Court ruling on the issue of file sharing (SOCAN v. CAIP; 2004 SCC 45), will have an impact in the library literature in the next few years

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**Thank You**