

# Your rights as an author

Andrew P. Black

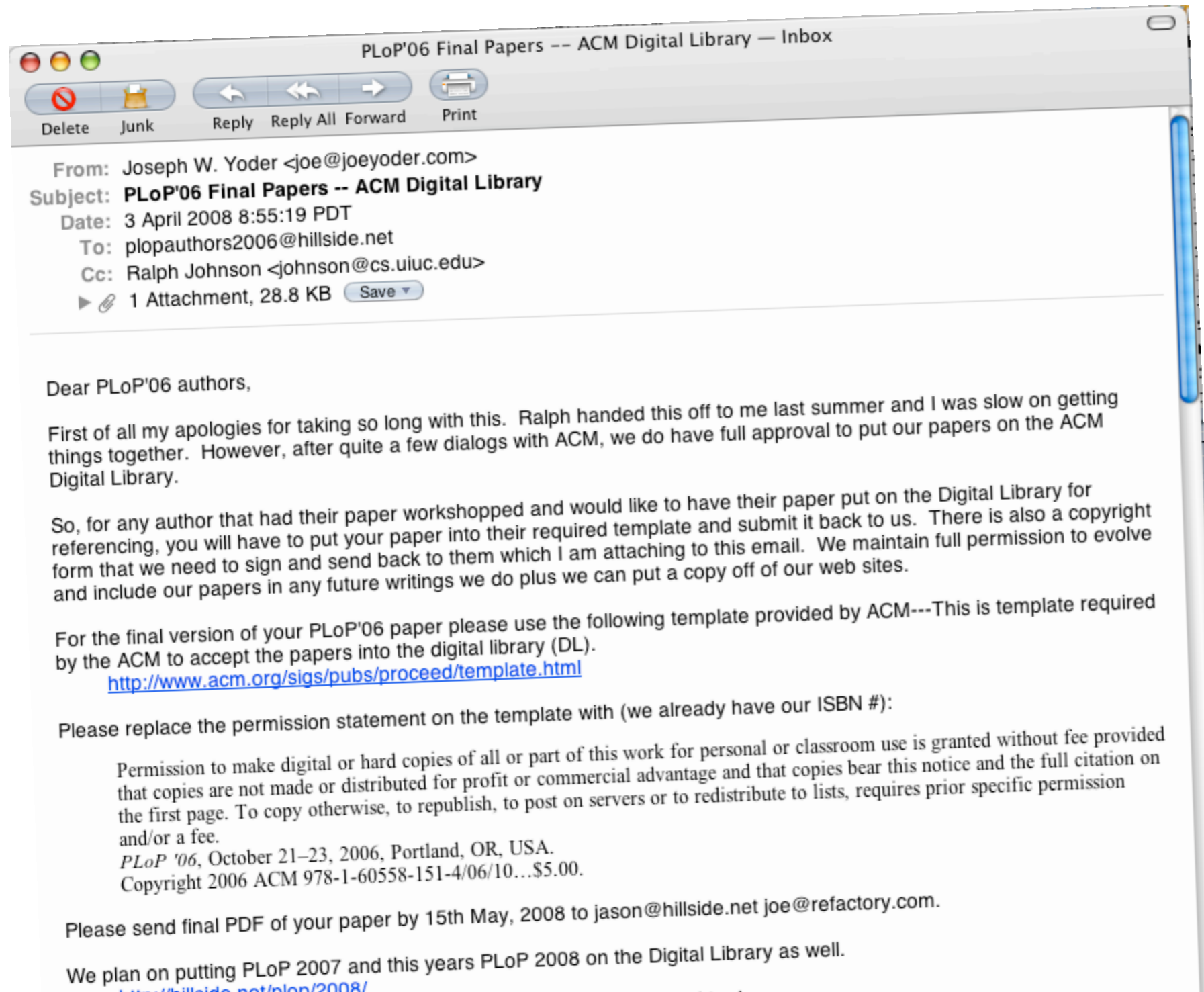
Professor, Computer Science

# Don't give it all away!

...at least, not without thinking  
about it

Recent court decision costs  
professor \$200k

# It all sounds so benign!



# It all sounds so benign!

...However, after quite a few dialogs with ACM, we do have full approval to put our papers on the ACM Digital Library.

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**From:** Andrew P. Black <black@cs.pdx.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: PLoP'06 Final Papers -- ACM Digital Library  
**Date:** 9 April 2008 19:03:51 PDT  
**To:** Joseph W. Yoder <joe@joeyoder.com> , Ralph Johnson <johnson@cs.uiuc.edu>  
**Cc:** plopauthors2006@hillside.net , Daniel Vainsencher <danielv@techunix.technion.ac.il> , jason@hillside.net

Dear Joe and Ralph,

I'm pleased to see that there are plans to put the PLoP `06 papers in the ACM Digital library. I'm happy to grant ACM and or Hillside a license to permit such publication. However, I'm unwilling to donate the copyright to my paper to ACM.

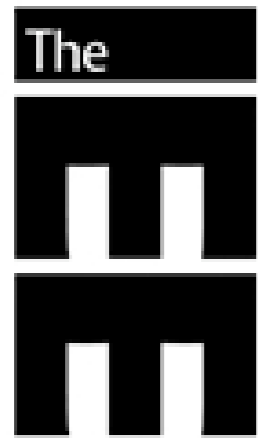
In your email, you say that "We maintain full permission to evolve and include our papers in any future writings we do plus we can put a copy off of our web sites." Neither statement is really true.

A revision of this paper is currently in the refereeing cycle for a Journal. If it's accepted, the journal publisher will want copyright. They will not be content with a "© ACM, 2008. This is a minor revision of the work published in ..." tagline. It may be that after all of the reviewing is done, the paper will be sufficiently different from the PLoP version to meet the ACM's "more than 25% changed" test. (See [http://www.acm.org/publications/policies/copyright\\_policy#Definitive](http://www.acm.org/publications/policies/copyright_policy#Definitive)). However, I don't know this now.

You should also be aware that the ACM (unlike the IEEE) does *not* permit its version of the paper to be placed on the author's web site. ACM requires that the author prepare a different version, causing an unnecessary proliferation of slightly different versions, which gets in the way of scholarship, as well as denying the ACM free advertising. I've pointed out to the ACM Pubs board that this is silly, and counter to the ACM's purposes, but the copyright agreement on the ACM web site has not changed.

In the past I have overcome this second objection by agreeing to donate my copyright to ACM but using the SPARC addendum (see <http://www.arl.org/sparc/author/addendum.html>) to maintain my right to distribute that version on my University's web site. The ACM have not objected to this. The SPARC addendum also enables me to retain the right to make a derivative work, but I don't want to rely on this in an unreasonably strict interpretation of what

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Signature of Author:

Mark P. Jones      A.P. Black

Date:

5 May 2004

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