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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

RICHARD KADREY et al.,

Individual and Representative Plaintiffs,

v.

META PLATFORMS, INC., a Delaware
Corporation,

Defendant.

Case No. 3:23-cv-03417-VC-TSH

**BRIEF OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND MEDICAL
PUBLISHERS AS *AMICUS CURIAE* IN
SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION
FOR PARTIAL SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

Judge: Hon. Vince Chhabria

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1 **INTERESTS OF *AMICUS CURIAE*¹**

2 The International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers (“STM”) is
3 the leading global trade association for academic and professional publishers. STM members
4 represent learned societies, university presses, and private companies of all sizes in the academic
5 and professional publishing industry. STM fosters collaboration and innovation among its roughly
6 150 members and the wider scholarly community. Its members collectively publish over 60
7 percent of all English language journal articles and tens of thousands of monographs and reference
8 works. Based on the publicly available evidence in this case, STM members’ works include tens
9 of thousands, if not millions, of the scientific articles, academic textbooks, and professional
10 reference books implicated by Defendant Meta Platforms, Inc.’s (“Meta”) conduct on BitTorrent.

11 The works STM members publish, including many peer-reviewed works, are especially
12 valuable to training generative artificial intelligence (“AI”) systems. They provide high quality
13 expression that results in commercially valuable, expressive output. STM has been actively
14 representing the interests of its members as they relate to AI issues and engaged in the ongoing
15 discussion around generative AI and its relationship with, and impact on, publishers and the
16 scholarly community. As its members manage the review, editing, curation, enrichment,
17 distribution, and financing of such high-quality content, STM champions a vision of truthful,
18 responsible, and reliable AI systems that use STM members’ content in AI training only with
19 authorization, compensation, and attribution.

20 STM is also dedicated to education and advocacy efforts related to protecting its members’
21 copyrighted works from copyright infringement. These efforts extend to online digital piracy and
22 its highly damaging impact on the economic sustainability of STM members as they work to
23 disseminate research advances for the benefit of the public and scholarly community.

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¹No counsel for any party authored this brief in whole or in part, and no entity or person other
27 than STM or their members made any monetary contribution intended to fund the preparation or
28 submission of this brief.

1 **PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

2 Fair use does not legitimize the commercial-scale copying of infringing material from
3 illegal sources. Nor does fair use justify distributing that material to countless others worldwide.

4 The illegal websites that Meta used to purloin a trove of copyrighted works have been the
5 repeated subject of enforcement. Collectively, they have been found by multiple courts to be
6 illegal and against the public interest; investigated by the FBI and the U.S. Department of Justice,
7 including for potential espionage; had their domains shut down; and had their operators arrested.
8 However, the sites and their enormous collections of infringing material are controlled by overseas
9 pirates and supported by foreign intermediaries who openly and brazenly defy the rule of law.
10 Thus, they remain a significant and persistent problem for copyright holders. Their mass
11 infringement is antithetical to the core principles of copyright, including the incentive to create.

12 Meta, a multibillion-dollar business, has embraced these so-called “shadow libraries” as
13 part of its supply chain despite knowing and acknowledging their illegality. Hoping to avoid
14 liability, Meta argues for an unprecedented expansion of the fair use doctrine. No case has found
15 fair use in analogous circumstances. Contrary to Meta’s approach, each alleged act of infringement
16 requires its own analysis, and use of stolen content matters. The implications of Meta’s logic are
17 astounding – anything goes in sourcing copyrighted content as long as the final end-use is
18 supposedly non-infringing. As long as you’re “just learning from it,” why ever buy a copyrighted
19 work? Instead, go to a piracy hot-spot and copy at will. This is not the law.

20 **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

21 Meta used BitTorrent to download *hundreds of terabytes* of copyrighted works from the
22 illegal websites known as Z-Library, Libgen, Sci-Hub, Internet Archive, and Anna’s Archive. *See*
23 *Pls.’ Mot. for Partial Summ. J., Dkt. 482 (“Pls.’ Mot.”)* at 13; *Mot. for Relief from Non-Dispositive*
24 *Pretrial Order of Magistrate Judge (“Mot. Pretrial Order”)* Ex. D, Dkt. 417-7 at 2. BitTorrent is
25 infamous for widespread unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials. *See, e.g., BMG Rts.*
26 *Mgmt. (US) LLC v. Cox Commc’ns, Inc.*, 881 F.3d 293, 299 (4th Cir. 2018). Based on the way that
27 BitTorrent works, while Meta was downloading these pirated works en masse, it was also

1 simultaneously uploading them to others in the BitTorrent swarm (i.e. all users downloading and/or
2 distributing a certain file or set of files at the same time). *See, e.g., id.* at 25.

3 These so-called “shadow libraries” are not in fact “libraries.” Libraries acquire works
4 through lawful channels that compensate the efforts of publishers and authors. *See Hachette Book*
5 *Grp., Inc. v. Internet Archive*, 115 F.4th 163, 174-75 (2d Cir. 2024) (explaining publishers’ ebook
6 licensing to libraries). In contrast, these infringing websites make illicit digital copies of works
7 that are available for purchase or rental or by subscription; actively encourage their users to upload
8 the same; and make these copies available for free to those willing to risk infringing themselves.
9 *See, e.g., id.* at 197.²

10 The evidence shows that Meta knew the “shadow libraries” are not legal sources of written
11 works and took multiple steps to hide its activity. *See, e.g., Pls.’ Mot.* at 12-13. While Meta
12 attempts to label them “publicly available datasets,” they are only “publicly available” because
13 those perpetuating their existence are breaking the law. *See id.* at 9. The reality is that Meta took
14 a calculated risk to put its own competitive interests ahead of millions of copyright holders’ rights.
15 And its use of illegal websites to steal copyrighted works flies in the face of the court orders
16 imposed and government action taken against the websites. Meta cannot gloss over its own illegal
17 conduct by pointing to the benefits of generative AI. The ends do not justify the means.

18 The harm caused by these illegal websites is massive and viral. The works at issue are not
19 in the public domain and are not supposed to be available “for free” and “for anyone to use however
20 they want.” Indeed, infringing copies of copyrighted works distributed online deny publishers
21 legitimate sales, deny authors recognition, and undermine future investments in scholarly writings.
22 These illicit copies also contain no Digital Rights Management or other protections applied to
23 legitimate works, so there is no limit to the number of times an infringing file can be shared. Thus,

24
25 ² *See also Library Genesis Project update: 2.5 million books seeded with the world, 80 million*
26 *scientific articles next*, REDDIT, INC. (last visited Apr. 6, 2025)
27 [https://www.reddit.com/r/libgen/comments/eo0y2c/library_genesis_project_update_25_million_](https://www.reddit.com/r/libgen/comments/eo0y2c/library_genesis_project_update_25_million_books/)
28 [books/](https://www.reddit.com/r/libgen/comments/eo0y2c/library_genesis_project_update_25_million_books/).

1 when Meta downloaded and distributed infringing material through BitTorrent, Meta’s conduct not
2 only extended to those in the BitTorrent swarm at that time – it enabled further downstream
3 dissemination *ad infinitum* of the works, through torrenting and otherwise. Further, these notorious
4 infringing websites are known sources of misinformation, which is especially problematic in the
5 scientific and medical context. Because they do not deal in legitimate copies, they lack controls
6 on, and do not take responsibility for, what content might be missing, inaccurate, or have been
7 retracted or updated.

8 **I. Z-Library Was Indicted for Criminal Copyright Infringement.**

9 Z-Library operates as a series of illegal websites through which a vast array of written
10 material is stolen and shared widely online with no remuneration to copyright holders. *See* Compl.
11 and Aff. in Supp. Appl. for Two Arrest Wrnts., *United States v. Napolsky and Ermakova*, Case No.
12 22-cr-525-NRM-CLP (E.D.N.Y. Oct. 21, 2022), Dkt. 1 (“Z-Library Aff.”) ¶¶ 3, 6. In 2022, after
13 a year-and-a-half long investigation, the FBI seized dozens of Z-Library websites, and the U.S.
14 Attorney for the Eastern District of New York brought criminal charges against two individuals it
15 determined were operating Z-Library. *Id.* ¶ 6. A grand jury issued an indictment for criminal
16 copyright infringement, wire fraud, and money laundering. *Id.*; Indictment, *Napolsky*, Case No.
17 22-cr-525-NRM-CLP (E.D.N.Y. Nov. 16, 2022), Dkt. 4.

18 As the FBI explained, the “central purpose of Z-Library is allowing users to download
19 copyrighted books for free in violation of U.S. copyright law,” which “Z-Library has no right or
20 license to distribute.” Z-Library Aff. ¶ 4. As a result, Z-Library has “devastating effects on all
21 manner of victims, including authors, publishers, authors’ estates (including ones that donate their
22 proceeds to charity), independent bookstores, large commercial bookstores, and legitimate ebooks
23 sellers.” *Id.* ¶ 5.

24 The two individuals indicted for operating Z-Library were arrested in Argentina in 2022.³

25 _____
26 ³ *Two Russian Nationals Charged with Running Massive E-Book Piracy Website*, U.S.
27 ATTORNEY’S OFFICE, EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK (Nov. 16, 2022),
28 <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/two-russian-nationals-charged-running-massive-e-book-piracy-website>.

1 After an Argentine court ordered their extradition to the United States, they escaped from house
2 arrest.⁴ The story regarding the criminal action against Z-Library was well-publicized.⁵ The first
3 page of search results for “Z-library” on Google links to the U.S. Attorney’s press release.

4 Despite the government resources dedicated to the Z-Library website seizures and arrests,
5 Z-Library became active again, including on the dark web.⁶ And Z-Library’s millions of infringing
6 files can be accessed via torrent files through Anna’s Archive. That is where Meta went to source
7 infringing copies of copyrighted works long after this government action took place. *See* Pls.’ Mot.
8 at 10-11. By using BitTorrent, Meta also distributed as it was downloading, not only committing
9 infringement, but fueling the Z-Library piracy network (as it did with the other so-called “shadow
10 libraries” it torrented).

11 **II. Library Genesis Is a Notorious, Illegal Collection of Pirated Material.**

12 Libgen is one of the world’s largest and most notorious infringement operations. It has
13 been included in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative’s Review of Notorious Markets for
14 Counterfeiting and Piracy since at least 2016.⁷ Operating as a group of websites controlled by
15 anonymous overseas pirates, reportedly from Russia, Libgen maintains an enormous collection of
16 stolen works, including non-fiction (including textbooks and professional reference books), fiction
17 books, and scientific articles. *Id.*

18 Two U.S. federal courts have found Libgen liable for willful copyright infringement and
19 issued broad permanent injunctions. *See* Default J., Permanent Inj., and Post-J. Relief Order,

20 ⁴ *See also* Andy Maxwell, *Z-Library Admins “Escape House Arrest” After Judge Approves U.S.*
21 *Extradition*, TORRENTFREAK (July 8, 2024), [https://torrentfreak.com/z-library-admins-escape-](https://torrentfreak.com/z-library-admins-escape-house-arrest-after-judge-approves-u-s-extradition-240708/)
22 [house-arrest-after-judge-approves-u-s-extradition-240708/](https://torrentfreak.com/z-library-admins-escape-house-arrest-after-judge-approves-u-s-extradition-240708/).

23 ⁵ *See, e.g.*, John Annese, *Two Russians charged with running Z-Library book piracy website*,
24 *NEW YORK DAILY NEWS* (Nov. 16, 2022), [https://www.nydailynews.com/2022/11/16/two-](https://www.nydailynews.com/2022/11/16/two-russians-charged-with-running-z-library-book-piracy-website/)
25 [russians-charged-with-running-z-library-book-piracy-website/](https://www.nydailynews.com/2022/11/16/two-russians-charged-with-running-z-library-book-piracy-website/).

26 ⁶ *See* Jon Brodtkin, *US seizes Z-Library login domain, but secret URLs for each user remain*
27 *active*, ARS TECHNICA (May 5, 2023), [https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2023/05/us-seizes-z-](https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2023/05/us-seizes-z-library-login-domain-but-secret-urls-for-each-user-remain-active/)
28 [library-login-domain-but-secret-urls-for-each-user-remain-active/](https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2023/05/us-seizes-z-library-login-domain-but-secret-urls-for-each-user-remain-active/).

29 ⁷ *See, e.g.*, *2024 Review of Notorious Markets for Counterfeiting and Piracy*, OFFICE OF THE
30 UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, 27 (2024),
31 [https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/2024%20Review%20of%20Notorious%20Markets%20of%20](https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/2024%20Review%20of%20Notorious%20Markets%20of%20Counterfeiting%20and%20Piracy%20(final).pdf)
32 [Counterfeiting%20and%20Piracy%20\(final\).pdf](https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/2024%20Review%20of%20Notorious%20Markets%20of%20Counterfeiting%20and%20Piracy%20(final).pdf) (“USTR 2024 Review”).

1 *Cengage Learning Inc. et al. v. Does 1-50 d/b/a Library Genesis*, Case No. 23-cv-08316-CM
2 (S.D.N.Y. Sept. 24, 2024) (“Cengage Judgment”), Dkt. 36; *Elsevier Inc. v. Sci-Hub*, 2017 WL
3 3868800 (S.D.N.Y. June 21, 2017). Further, courts in multiple European countries have ordered
4 internet service providers to block access to Libgen websites as a result of infringement actions
5 under laws in those countries allowing for such blocking orders. *See* Cengage Judgment at 3;
6 USTR 2024 Review at 17. This is in addition to the myriad notices of infringement that publishers,
7 including STM members, send to Libgen (and other illegal websites), only to have them ignored.

8 In June 2015, STM member Elsevier Inc., which publishes textbooks and scientific journal
9 articles, brought suit against Libgen and Sci-Hub in the Southern District of New York. The court
10 issued a judgment against the defendants, finding them liable for willful copyright infringement,
11 and entered a permanent injunction. *Elsevier*, 2017 WL 3868800, at *2. The injunction restrains
12 the defendants and those in active concert or participation with them “from unlawful access to,
13 use, reproduction, and/or distribution of Elsevier’s copyrighted works.” *Id.* at *2-3 The court also
14 awarded Elsevier \$15,000,000 in statutory damages and ordered the transfer of the Libgen and
15 Sci-Hub domains to Elsevier. *Id.* While certain Libgen domains were transferred and shut down
16 at the time, Libgen found ways to continue operating.

17 In September 2023, months before Meta tormented Libgen’s nonfiction collection, four
18 additional U.S. educational publishers, including STM member McGraw Hill, brought suit against
19 Libgen for copyright infringement in the Southern District of New York. Cengage Judgment at 1.
20 The court held defendants liable for willful copyright infringement and awarded plaintiffs
21 \$30,000,000 in damages, making clear that Libgen is illegal: “Libgen is a so-called ‘shadow
22 library,’ which enables users to unlawfully download for free a wide array of copyrighted content.”
23 *Id.* at 2, 4-5. The court also issued a permanent injunction, explaining that “the public has an
24 interest in protecting the integrity of copyright holders’ copyrights.” *Id.* at 4. The injunction
25 restrains the defendants and those in active concert or participation with them from “[c]opying,
26 reproducing, manufacturing, importing, downloading, uploading, transmitting, [or] distributing
27 any of Plaintiffs’ Copyrighted Works”; “enabling, facilitating, permitting, assisting, soliciting,

1 encouraging, or inducing others to engage in such activities”; and “using a file sharing network to
2 enable [or] facilitate the infringement of Plaintiffs’ Copyrighted Works. *Id.* at 4-5 (cleaned up).
3 The court also ordered that the Libgen domains be transferred to the plaintiffs. *Id.* at 5-6. While
4 some domains were transferred by domain registrars, others are controlled by non-cooperative
5 intermediaries, and Libgen continues to operate.

6 Libgen’s illegal conduct has been well-publicized online.⁸ Its supporters make no effort to
7 conceal its illegal nature.⁹ Meta knew that Libgen violates the law but chose to make Libgen (and
8 the other illegal websites) part of its supply chain. *See* Pls.’ Mot. at 12-14.

9 **III. Sci-Hub Is a Repository for Millions of Pirated Scientific Articles.**

10 Sci-Hub is a group of pirate sites that unlawfully reproduce and distribute millions of
11 scientific articles. Like Libgen, Sci-Hub has been included in the Office of the U.S. Trade
12 Representative’s Review of Notorious Markets for Counterfeiting and Piracy since at least 2017.¹⁰
13 Also like Libgen, two federal courts have found Sci-Hub liable for willful copyright infringement
14 and issued permanent injunctions. *See Elsevier*, 2017 WL 3868800, at *1; Order, *American*
15 *Chemical Society v. John Does 1-99, et, al.*, Case No. 17-cv-00726-LMB-JFA (E.D. Va. Nov. 11,
16 2017) (“ACS Judgment”), Dkt. 36; Am. Permanent Inj., Dkt. 44 (“ACS Am. Permanent Inj.”).
17 Most, if not all, of Sci-Hub’s stolen works are linked and available through Libgen’s “Sci-Mag”
18 collection, which Meta torrented. *See* Pls.’ Mot. at 13.

19 Sci-Hub was founded by Alexandra Elbakyan, a Kazakhstani citizen. Sept. 15, 2015 Letter
20 from Elbakyan, *Elsevier Inc. v. Sci-Hub*, Case No. 15-cv-04282-RWS (S.D.N.Y.), Dkt. 50.

22 ⁸ *See, e.g.*, Blake Brittain, *Textbook publishers sue ‘shadow library’ Library Genesis over*
23 *pirated books*, REUTERS (Sept. 14, 2023), [https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/textbook-](https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/textbook-publishers-sue-shadow-library-library-genesis-over-pirated-books-2023-09-14/)
24 *publishers-sue-shadow-library-library-genesis-over-pirated-books-2023-09-14/*; Ernesto Van der
25 Sar, *Court Orders Shutdown of Libgen, Bookfi, and Sci-Hub*, TORRENTFREAK (Nov. 2, 2015),
<https://torrentfreak.com/court-orders-shutdown-of-libgen-bookfi-and-sci-hub-151102/>.

25 ⁹ *See, e.g.*, r/Libgen, Reddit.com (last visited Apr. 6, 2025), <https://www.reddit.com/r/libgen>.

26 ¹⁰ *See* 2017 Out-of-Cycle Review of Notorious Markets, OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE
27 REPRESENTATIVE, EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, 16 (2017)
<https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/files/Press/Reports/2017%20Notorious%20Markets%20List%2001.11.18.pdf>.

1 Elbakyan admitted to a federal court that she created Sci-Hub after pirating research articles so
2 that “via sci-hub.org website anyone can download, absolutely for free, a copy of research paper[s]
3” *Id.* By 2019, Elbakyan and the Sci-Hub servers were likely located in Russia and the U.S.
4 Justice Department was investigating Elbakyan for links with Russian intelligence.¹¹

5 In response to Sci-Hub’s rampant infringement, STM members have spent significant time
6 and resources attempting to mitigate the harmful impact of Sci-Hub’s piracy. Elsevier’s case
7 against Libgen included Sci-Hub as a defendant, and the court’s judgment and permanent
8 injunction extends to Sci-Hub. *Elsevier*, 2017 WL 3868800, at *2. As with Libgen, the case
9 resulted in some disruption to Sci-Hub, but Sci-Hub found ways to continue to operate.

10 In 2017, the American Chemical Society (“ACS”), another STM member, also sued Sci-
11 Hub. *Compl., American Chemical Society*, Case No. 17-cv-00726-LMB-JFA, Dkt. 1. The court
12 found Sci-Hub and its operators liable for, *inter alia*, willful copyright infringement and awarded
13 ACS \$4,800,000 in damages. *ACS Judgment at 2*. The court also issued a permanent injunction
14 that enjoined Sci-Hub and those in active concert or participation with it from, *inter alia*, copying
15 or distributing ACS’s copyrighted works, and ordered that the Sci-Hub domains be deactivated.
16 *ACS Judgment at 2-3; Am. Permanent Inj. at 1-3*. Sci-Hub again continued operating despite the
17 injunction.

18 Sci-Hub’s mass infringement not only causes financial harm to journal article copyright
19 holders, but also disserves the public interest, including because “there is a delicate ecosystem
20 which supports scientific research worldwide . . . and copyright law plays a critical function within
21 that system.” Oct. 30, 2015 Prelim. Inj., *Elsevier*, Case No. 15-cv-04282-RWS, Dkt. 53 at 14.
22 Moreover, Sci-Hub’s collection of pirated articles does not adhere to industry-wide standards for
23 retractions and corrections, undermining the public record of science and posing a public health
24

25 ¹¹ Shane Harris and Devlin Barrett, *Justice Department investigates Sci-Hub founder on*
26 *suspicion of working for Russian intelligence*, WASHINGTON POST (Dec. 19, 2019),
27 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/justice-department-investigates-sci-hub-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/justice-department-investigates-sci-hub-founder-on-suspicion-of-working-for-russian-intelligence/2019/12/19/9dbcb6e6-2277-11ea-a153-dce4b94e4249_story.html)
28 [founder-on-suspicion-of-working-for-russian-intelligence/2019/12/19/9dbcb6e6-2277-11ea-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/justice-department-investigates-sci-hub-founder-on-suspicion-of-working-for-russian-intelligence/2019/12/19/9dbcb6e6-2277-11ea-a153-dce4b94e4249_story.html)
[a153-dce4b94e4249_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/justice-department-investigates-sci-hub-founder-on-suspicion-of-working-for-russian-intelligence/2019/12/19/9dbcb6e6-2277-11ea-a153-dce4b94e4249_story.html).

1 and safety issue. Decl. of Paul F. Doda in Supp. of Pls.’ Mot. Default J. (“Doda Decl.”) at 4, Dkt.
2 84.¹²

3 Journal publishers correct and retract articles when issues are discovered in an academic
4 article, such as errors in the research, data, or results, or issues with reproducibility of the results.
5 *See id.* Thus, Sci-Hub undermines the integrity of the scientific record and progress in fields like
6 medicine and public health that can have a significant direct impact on the public. In the context
7 of Sci-Mag, Meta acknowledged that “it is possible that a model trained on Libgen may produce
8 inaccurate scientific sounding information,” and it is unclear whether Meta took any steps to
9 mitigate that risk. *See* Mot. Pretrial Order, Ex. F, Dkt. 417-9 at 2.

10 **IV. Internet Archive’s Books Database Was Adjudged Infringing.**

11 Internet Archive (“IA”) compiled a database of over 3.6 million digital copies of
12 copyrighted books on its website by scanning print books to create digital books, then distributed
13 full digital copies to users through its websites. *Hachette*, 115 F.4th at 176. IA set up a “lending
14 model” where users could “borrow” these digital copies for a set time period. *Hachette Book Grp.,*
15 *Inc. v. Internet Archive*, 664 F. Supp. 3d 370, 376-77 (S.D.N.Y. 2023), *aff’d*, 115 F.4th 163 (2d Cir.
16 2024). In 2020, a group of publishers, including STM member John Wiley & Sons, Inc., sued IA
17 for copyright infringement. *Id.* at 377. The court granted plaintiffs’ motion for summary judgment,
18 rejecting IA’s argument that digitizing the physical books was fair use, and finding that all four fair
19 use factors weighed in plaintiffs’ favor. *Id.* at 390-91. The Second Circuit affirmed, explaining
20 that a finding of fair use “would allow for widescale copying that deprives creators of
21 compensation and diminishes the incentive to produce new works.” *Hachette*, 115 F.4th at 197.
22 The case against IA did not stop Meta from downloading and distributing copies of these same
23 books. *See* Pls.’ Mot. at 21.

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25
26 ¹² *See also* John Timmer, *Science paper piracy site Sci-Hub shares lots of retracted papers*, ARS
27 TECHNICA (Jan. 7, 2025) <https://arstechnica.com/science/2025/01/science-paper-piracy-site-sci-hub-shares-lots-of-retracted-papers/>.

1 **V. Anna’s Archive Aggregates Illegal Websites’ Infringing Files.**

2 Anna’s Archive, launched after the 2022 law enforcement efforts to stifle Z-Library,
3 provides a one-stop-shop for illegally downloading, copying, and distributing hundreds of
4 terabytes of unauthorized copies of copyrighted works from the illegal websites. *See* Pls.’ Mot. at
5 10. Far from being a mere “repository” as Meta describes it, by providing torrent files for the
6 entire unlawful collections of the so-called “shadow libraries” described above, Anna’s Archive
7 commits and facilitates widespread infringement on a staggering scale and provides no
8 remuneration to copyright holders. The site itself reports that it has copied and distributed over 43
9 million books and over 98 million papers.¹³ Anna’s Archive, along with Z-Library and Libgen, is
10 also the subject to a 2024 order from the U.K. High Court of Justice requiring internet service
11 providers to block access to its domains.¹⁴

12 Meta’s engineers described Anna’s Archive as “a pretty shady website.” Pls.’ Mot. at 11.
13 But the Anna’s Archive operators are more direct: “We deliberately violate the copyright law in
14 most countries.”¹⁵ Indeed, their stated goal is to make unauthorized copies of as many written
15 works as possible and distribute those unauthorized copies as widely as possible.¹⁶ They do this
16 by seeding torrent files of unauthorized digital copies of copyrighted works from multiple “shadow
17 libraries” and encouraging users to download and seed the files to further distribute the
18 unauthorized works.¹⁷ And by aggregating the unauthorized digital works available through the
19 illegal websites, Anna’s Archive compounds the significant injuries caused by those sites.

20 ¹³ *See* Anna’s Archive, <https://annas-archive.org/> (last visited Apr. 3, 2025).

21 ¹⁴ *See* Matilda Battersby, *Publishers Association wins High Court bid ordering internet service*
22 *providers to block pirate websites*, THE BOOKSELLER (Dec. 20, 2024),

23 [https://www.thebookseller.com/news/publishers-association-wins-high-court-bid-ordering-](https://www.thebookseller.com/news/publishers-association-wins-high-court-bid-ordering-internet-service-providers-to-block-pirate-websites)
24 [internet-service-providers-to-block-pirate-websites](https://www.thebookseller.com/news/publishers-association-wins-high-court-bid-ordering-internet-service-providers-to-block-pirate-websites); *Authors and Publishers Win High Court*
25 *Support in Fight Against Infringement*, PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION (Dec. 20, 2024),

26 [https://www.publishers.org.uk/authors-and-publishers-win-high-court-support-in-fight-against-](https://www.publishers.org.uk/authors-and-publishers-win-high-court-support-in-fight-against-infringement/)
27 [infringement/](https://www.publishers.org.uk/authors-and-publishers-win-high-court-support-in-fight-against-infringement/).

28 ¹⁵ *Introducing the Pirate Library Mirror (EDIT: moved to Anna’s Archive)*, Anna’s Blog (July 1,
2022), <https://annas-archive.org/blog/blog-introducing.html>.

¹⁶ *See* Anna’s Archive Frequently Asked Questions, <https://annas-archive.org/faq> (last visited
Apr. 3, 2025).

¹⁷ *See* Anna’s Archive Torrents, <https://annas-archive.org/torrents> (last visited Apr. 3, 2025).

ARGUMENT

I. Each Act of Alleged Infringement Must Be Independently Considered.

In their Third Amended Consolidated Complaint (Dkt. 407), Plaintiffs have alleged separate acts of infringement as a result of Meta’s initial copying of their works (§ 98) and Meta’s further copying to train its LLM (§ 100). The Court should resist Meta’s implicit invitation to judge all of its infringing conduct as a single act or even a series of ongoing infringements. Every act of copyright infringement is an independently actionable legal wrong. *See Petrella v. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Inc.*, 572 U.S. 663, 671 (2014). That is why, in assessing whether Google’s creation of a tool to deliver snippets of copyrighted books was fair use, the Second Circuit emphasized that Google obtained the books through agreements with “a number of the world’s major research libraries.” *Authors Guild v. Google, Inc.*, 804 F.3d 202, 208 (2d Cir. 2015). The court took pains to note that Google’s initial acquisition of the copyrighted works was not itself an infringing act. *See id.*

Because each act of infringement gives rise to a unique cause of action, every act must be assessed separately to determine whether that use is fair. Here, the Court must separately consider Meta’s fair use defense as to its reproductions via BitTorrent versus its subsequent reproductions to train the LLM. Plaintiffs’ brief explains why Meta’s use of BitTorrent does not square with the fair use factors. Pls.’ Mot. at 22-30. In particular, the Court must assess the different market harms associated with Meta’s failure to license Plaintiffs’ works to train its LLM versus the harms associated with Meta’s fostering piracy through BitTorrent. *See, e.g., Glacier Films (USA), Inc. v. Turchin*, 896 F.3d 1033, 1035-36 (9th Cir. 2018) (“peer-to-peer networks can have severe financial consequences for copyright holders”; they hurt everyone involved in the creative process and are “helping create a generation of Americans who don’t see the harm” in stealing intellectual property).

II. Use of Stolen Copies Should Not Be Conflated with Choosing Not to License.

Plaintiffs’ brief describes in detail how Meta engaged in a massive program of downloading illegal copies of millions of works through BitTorrent, constituting hundreds of terabytes of written

1 content, and further distributing them as part of the BitTorrent protocol. Pls.’ Mot. at 8-15. As
2 noted above, STM’s members include academic and professional publishers that publish *tens of*
3 *thousands, if not millions*, of the journal articles, textbooks, and reference books that Meta
4 torrented. Meta attempts to brush aside its conduct by arguing that courts have called into question
5 the relevance of “bad faith” in the context of the fair use analysis. Meta’s argument fails. Meta
6 vastly overstates the extent to which bad faith has been questioned by the courts. More
7 significantly, none of the cases on which Meta relies examined the significance of the defendant’s
8 initial copying to acquire the underlying work as itself being an act of infringement.

9 The cases addressing bad faith generally have one of two outcomes. Cases in which the
10 alleged bad faith is simply the defendant’s failure to license the plaintiff’s work generally result in
11 the court concluding that bad faith is not determinative of the fair use inquiry. By contrast, where
12 the defendant has used a stolen copy of the copyrighted work in creating its derivative version,
13 courts routinely consider the defendant’s conduct in the context of fair use. In this case, the Court
14 should weigh Meta’s extensive use of BitTorrent heavily in considering fair use.

15 The Supreme Court has explained that in evaluating the first fair use factor, *see* 17 U.S.C.
16 § 107, courts should consider the “propriety of the defendant’s conduct.” *Harper & Row Pub.,*
17 *Inc. v. Nation Enters.*, 471 U.S. 539, 562-63 (1985). The Court in *Harper & Row* held that because
18 the defendant knowingly exploited a “purloined” manuscript with the intent to displace the
19 plaintiff’s right of first publication, the defendant’s actions weighed against a finding of fair use.
20 *Id.* Meta’s re-copying of millions of stolen works for its own use is on all fours with the Court’s
21 decision. Indeed, the defendant in *Harper & Row* used only 13% of one copyrighted work. *Id.* at
22 565. Here, Meta copied 100% of all Plaintiffs’ works, as well as those of STM members and many
23 other authors and publishers, while simultaneously distributing on BitTorrent. Meta’s bad faith
24 dwarfs the troubling conduct in *Harper & Row*.

25 The Court briefly considered the role of the defendant’s failure to license the copyrighted
26 work in *Campbell v. Acuff-Rose Music, Inc.*, 510 U.S. 569 (1994). In *Campbell*, the musical group
27 2 Live Crew initially sought a license to use Acuff-Rose’s song *Oh Pretty Woman*, but the offer

1 was rejected. 510 U.S. at 593. The *Campbell* Court held that the offer may have simply been a
2 good faith attempt to avoid litigation, which would not count in 2 Live Crew’s favor, and neither
3 would being denied permission weigh against a finding of fair use. *Id.* at 585 n.18. There was no
4 finding of bad faith in *Campbell*. In *Oracle v. Google*, 593 U.S. 1 (2021), the Court again
5 considered the relevance of Google’s failure to obtain a license for Oracle’s software before using
6 it in its own products, which it equated with “bad faith.” The Court interpreted its prior ruling in
7 *Campbell* as expressing “some skepticism” about the role of bad faith in a fair use analysis but
8 ultimately sidestepped the issue, concluding “given the strength of the other factors pointing
9 toward fair use . . . that factbound consideration is not determinative in this context.” *Id.* at 32-33.

10 Meta’s attempt to paint *Campbell* and *Oracle* as eliminating the nature of the defendant’s
11 conduct from the fair use analysis is erroneous. The Court simply declined to hold that the mere
12 failure to license overcame the rest of the first factor analysis. Finally, Meta suggests that the
13 Supreme Court’s most recent fair use decision, *Andy Warhol Foundation. for the Visual Arts, Inc.*
14 *v. Goldsmith*, 598 U.S. 508 (2023), in which the Court soundly rejected the Andy Warhol
15 Foundation’s fair use argument, somehow supports its position. Def.’s Mot. for Partial Summ. J.
16 and Opp’n. to Pls.’ Mot., Dkt. 501 (“Meta Mot.”) at 19. The Court in *Goldsmith* observed that the
17 defendant’s use (*i.e.*, whether it is parodic or otherwise transformative) is judged on an objective
18 standard without considering what the defendant intended to achieve. 598 U.S. at 545. This
19 citation to *Goldsmith* does not further Meta’s argument. If anything, it supports Plaintiffs’ view
20 that Meta’s conduct – and the harm caused by that conduct – in obtaining the original works from
21 known illegal sources can be judged objectively without considering Meta’s subjective intent in
22 creating an LLM or injuring the Plaintiffs. Nothing in *Campbell*, *Oracle*, or *Goldsmith* undermines
23 the clear holding in *Harper & Row* that where the defendant has used a stolen copy of the plaintiff’s
24 work to create its derivative work, that fact can and should be considered as part of the first fair
25 use factor.

26 Meta also misrepresents the state of the law in the lower courts. Meta waives away the
27 strong decision in *Atari Games Corp. v. Nintendo of America, Inc.*, 975 F.2d 832 (Fed. Cir. 1992),

1 which held that a party invoking the fair use defense must have started with an authorized copy of
2 the work. *Id.* at 843 (citing *Harper & Row*, 471 U.S. at 562-63). Meta argues that case was
3 superseded by later Supreme Court decisions, Meta Mot. at 21, but as discussed above, nothing in
4 those cases can be read to overrule the clear holding in *Harper & Row*. Meta’s other citations are
5 equally unavailing. At most, they stand for the unremarkable proposition that “bad faith” –
6 particularly where that term is synonymous with a failure to license – is not *dispositive* to the fair
7 use determination. *See* Meta Mot. at 19-20 (citing cases). Those decisions are fully consistent
8 with the weight of authority, including in the Ninth Circuit, that the defendant’s infringing conduct
9 must be *considered* as part of the first factor analysis – particularly where the conduct is more
10 egregious than a simple failure to license. *See NXIVM Corp. v. Ross Institute*, 364 F.3d 471, 478
11 (2d Cir. 2004) (“to the extent [defendants] knew [their] access to the manuscript was unauthorized
12 or was derived from a violation of law or breach of duty, this consideration weighs in favor of
13 plaintiffs”); *Los Angeles News Serv. v. KCAL-TV Channel 9*, 108 F.3d 1119, 1122 (9th Cir. 1997)
14 (whether defendant knowingly exploited a purloined work was relevant to the fair use analysis);
15 *Fioranelli v. CBS Broadcasting Inc.*, 551 F. Supp. 3d 199, 242-43 (S.D.N.Y. 2021) (defendant’s
16 use of footage marked “not for broadcast” should be considered).

17 CONCLUSION

18 Meta knowingly copied and distributed a shocking amount of infringing material from the
19 world’s most notorious infringing websites to serve its commercial ends. Meta’s brazen acts of
20 infringement, unprecedented in the annals of copyright law, must be considered in the context of
21 fair use and should weigh heavily against it.

1 Respectfully submitted,

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