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19 February, 2013

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Open Letter to the Scholarly Community:

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We are the members of the Association of Canadian University Presses/
Association Des Presses Universitaires Canadiennes. As such, we
represent most of the presses engaged in the publication of scholarship in
Canada.

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As scholarly publishers, we are accustomed to criticism of our publishing
programs from authors, readers, and librarians. We have noted with
interest and concern the recent lawsuit filed by The Edwin Mellen Press
against McMaster University and its associate university librarian, Dale
Askey.

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We have read the published background material on this lawsuit,
including Dale Askey's original blog posting, which triggered the lawsuit.
Askey's opinions are clearly his own, but do represent the views of an
experienced and professional university librarian.

We believe that Dale Askey's comments fall well within the range of fair
comment, and thus we urge The Edwin Mellen Press to withdraw this
lawsuit and, if it is not withdrawn, we support McMaster University in its
resolve to defend Mr. Askey's academic freedom.

We find it distressing that a scholarly publisher such as The Edwin Mellen
Press would use the courts to attempt to silence comment and criticism
from our customers. Freedom to speak and comment is a core value to
which all publishers owe their allegiance.

Respectfully,

Association of Canadian University Press /
Association Des Presses Universitaires Canadiennes

The Association of Canadian University Presses / Association Des Presses
Universitaires Canadiennes exists to serve the interest of Canadian
scholarship. By their publishing activity, ACUP / APUC members
encourage the broadest distribution of the fruits of research and
scholarship. The ACUP / APUC provides an organization through which the
exchange of ideas relating to university presses and their functions may
be facilitated.