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Publishers Settle Suit Over Course Packs

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Six leading academic publishers have reached an out-of-court settlement with a copy-shop owner in Austin, Tex., whom the publishers accused of selling course materials online in violation of copyright law.

The settlement stems from a lawsuit the publishers filed in January against the shop owner, Samuel Odunsi, of Buda, Tex. A service run by Mr. Odunsi created electronic versions of course packs without the permission of the

publishers or their licensing agent, the Copyright Clearance Center, according to the lawsuit. The course packs, called NetPaks, were sold to students at the University of Texas at Austin.

The suit, which was settled last month, is among the first to take aim at the digital distribution of unauthorized course packs.

Mr. Odunsi has agreed to pay damages and to “adopt compliant business practices going forward,” according to

a statement released by the Copyright Clearance Center. A spokesman for the center declined to elaborate, and a lawyer for the copy-shop owner did not return telephone calls.

Mr. Odunsi faced as much as \$8.5-million in fines under the lawsuit.

The publishers in the case are Elsevier, John Wiley & Sons, Pearson Education, Princeton University Press, Sage Publications, and the University of Chicago Press.



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