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Authors claim 'historic win' as Anthropic settles in AI copyright case

by *Lauren Brown*

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Tech giant Anthropic is settling with three authors who brought a copyright infringement lawsuit against the company that was due to go to trial in December.

Authors Andrea Bartz, Charles Graeber and Kirk Wallace Johnson [brought the case in 2024](#), alleging that the company – which is behind the chatbot Claude – had illegally used their work to train its AI models.

In June, a federal judge in California, Judge William Alsup, ruled that AI model training on books that were legally obtained, but without the consent of their authors, still constituted fair use under US copyright law.

However, Alsup also said that the AI company may have illegally downloaded around seven million books from pirate websites – including LibGen – which could have made it liable for billions of dollars in damages if the authors won the case.

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In a court filing on Tuesday 26th August, Anthropic said the parties “have executed a binding term sheet intended to memorialize the terms of a proposed class settlement”, further indicating that there was agreement on “the core terms” of the settlement.

Justin Nelson, the authors' lawyer, said in a statement: "This historic settlement will benefit all class members. We look forward to announcing details of the settlement in the coming weeks."

There are several other court cases relating to the training of books and AI going through US federal courts against OpenAI, Microsoft and others.