



ANTIQUARIAN BOOKSELLERS'
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.



March 13, 2013

Dr. Stephen D. Crocker, Chairman of the Board
Mr. Fadi Chehadé, President & CEO
Mr. Cherine Chalaby, Chair of the New gTLD Committee
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90094

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America (ABAA), I am writing to voice objection to any plans by ICANN to grant exclusive top-level domain rights for generic book-industry terms, such as .book, .author, and .read.

The ABAA is the largest and oldest association of antiquarian booksellers in the U.S., representing more than 450 member firms across the nation. The mission of the ABAA is to promote ethical standards and professionalism in the antiquarian book trade.

As a collection of small businesses, we count on there being a fair and level playing field for all. We believe placing these generic top-level domain names in private hands is anticompetitive and will lead to monopolization of a marketplace.

If ICANN's program goals are truly to "create a platform to innovation in the industry and Internet and open doors to increase choice and competition in the market place," they are falling short.

As antiquarian booksellers, we strive to preserve, protect and bring the past to light. So let's look to our history and reflect on the wrongs corrected by The Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890, which was passed to prevent market domination by a single entity, ensure a level playing field and give equal access to free markets.

Sincerely,

John Thomson
President
Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America, Inc.