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BEIJING—A government-linked Chinese writers' group is encouraging its member authors to take action against U.S. internet giant Google Inc. for scanning and posting their books online without permission, the group confirmed Oct. 20.

In a statement posted to its website, the China Written Works Copyright Society said that it has encouraged its members to take prompt action and lodge their complaints before Google revises a previous court settlement in the United States over its book service. The Chinese writers' society says it has found 17,922 written works by more than 570 Chinese authors that have been scanned and copied by the Google service, apparently without appropriate copyright permissions.

“Google's infringement to Chinese authors is very severe,” Zhang Hongbo, deputy director of the organization, told the state-run China Daily newspaper.

Zhang told the newspaper not a single writer contacted by the group had authorized Google to copy their works and post them online. His organization is considering gathering plaintiffs for a copyright lawsuit against, but will first formally complain to the company and attempt to negotiate a settlement.

No Comment From Google

Google's China office could not be reached for comment on the dispute, which marks the latest in a growing number of spats between the Internet giant and China.

The Chinese government has blocked several features of Google's services from within China. But China is not the first country to question the legality of Google's book feature.


The Chinese said it was encouraging writers here to voice their objections before that date.

By Kathleen E. McLaughlin