



WIPO STANDING COMMITTEE ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS

19th Session: Geneva, 14-18 December 2009

Joint intervention by

IFLA: International Federation of Library Associations &

eIFL: Electronic Information for Libraries

Agenda item 4: Limitations and exceptions

Libraries and Education

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am speaking on behalf of IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations, with the support of eIFL, Electronic Information for Libraries. We welcome Ambassador Trevor Clarke to his new appointment. We also wish Jørgen Blomqvist well in his new role. We thank the Secretariat for publishing such interesting and informative studies on exceptions for education. These bring out the role of libraries in supporting education, and we note that a number of the findings concur with our own perception of the situation.

Education and libraries go hand in hand. A good education service depends on good libraries which are not only physical spaces but also provide 24/7 digital learning environments, and indeed Professor Xalabarder's study ([sccr/19/8 p.119](#)) found that libraries are usually the source of teaching and learning materials. In high income countries, there is already little distinction between physical and virtual classrooms. This is because the use of virtual learning environments in education is now so common that it can no longer be treated differently from traditional forms of delivery. As technical infrastructure improves, many developing countries will expand online teaching. For instance, in July 2009, undersea cables bringing high-speed

internet to eastern Africa went live, so the vision of virtual classrooms throughout Africa will be achieved sooner rather than later.

Education and lifelong learning are key public policy issues which can only properly be addressed through legislation. Libraries have statutory exceptions for educational purposes in many countries. Therefore there is a strong interaction between the two. It is clear that library and education exceptions must be dealt with together.

We ask that solutions be found, including norm setting, to address the disparities and gaps in legislation illustrated in the WIPO studies. Exceptions for libraries and for education are an international issue requiring urgent attention from this Committee. National solutions no longer work in the global digital and networked world we now live in. The Treaty proposed by Brazil, Ecuador and Paraguay for reading disabled people is a good example of the forward looking thinking that is needed.

We warmly welcome the United States' statement and commitment to better exceptions in copyright law as part and parcel of a balanced system of IP. The studies make it clear that it is important that exceptions for libraries and education now become a concrete agenda item for this Committee with the aim of resolving the problems that have been identified to provide a fair environment for libraries and education.

Thank you for your attention.

Awa Cissé, eIFL

Teresa Hackett, eIFL

Kelly Milam, IFLA

Barbara Stratton, IFLA

Winston Tabb, IFLA

Contacts:

IFLA: wtabb[at]jhu.edu (Winston Tabb)

eIFL: teresa.hackett[at]eifl.net (Teresa Hackett)