

Country Report: Jamaica

Annual report to the IFLA CLM Committee
Quebec Canada 2008

Copyright

Revision of copyright law

The law is under review for amendment to make it compliant with the Internet treaties. Circumvention is the only aspect of the Internet Treaties not already covered by the current law. The Library, Archives and Museums group met with the review team of the Intellectual Property Office in March. Among concerns raised were:

1. Exemptions that would **not** make it an infringement to circumvent digital protection measures to facilitate:
 - a. study and research;
 - b. access by the blind and print disabled;
 - c. preservation;
2. No further extension on the present life of creator plus fifty years.
3. Harmonization with Legal Deposit Act Regulations
4. Definitions of Fair Dealing
5. Clarity on the copyright status of government publications including studies and reports.
6. Treatment of Orphan Works

Legal matters

Trade agreements

Economic Partnership Agreement between CARIFORUM and the European Union [2008.]
The Agreement has been initialed. Ratification pending.
This agreement includes a requirement for harmonization of IP laws across the Caribbean region and adherence to the Internet treaties.

Anti terrorist law

Terrorism Prevention Act 2006

Librarians are liable if they fail to disclose information which comes to their attention during the course of their work.

Law cases

The organized crime unit has initiated several anti piracy cases which have been brought to trial in the past year.

Lobby activities

The National Library of Jamaica has represented the library fraternity at several discussions held by the Intellectual Property Office.