

Country Report Lithuania

Annual report to the IFLA CLM committee
Quebec Canada 2008

Copyright

Law on copyright and related rights was adopted on 18th May 1999, since then was amended 4 times: in 2000, 2003, 2006 and recently in 2008. Full text of the law is available in English:
http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=318375

Revision of copyright law

Two articles of the Law on copyright and related rights are being currently discussed:

- article on Reproduction of Works for Personal Use
- article on Reprographic Reproduction of Works

According to the current law compensation for authors and producers is collected and payed by the collecting society (LATGA-A). Only those operators, who are providing payed services, are entitled to pay, libraries including. Now the idea is, in addition to the existing system, to put extra tax on all the equipment for reprographic reproduction – both produced domestically and imported. This revision is being currently discussed in the Parliament.

New legislation

Orphan works

Some discussions, no action.

Public lending rights

New rules for PLR were adopted as of 14th August 2007 (they changed the rules existing since February 2002 when PLR was first introduced in Lithuania). Main changes:

- No discrimination against non-Lithuanian authors. Previously only Lithuanian citizens were entitled for PLR, now everybody who writes in Lithuanian.
- The proportion of money divided between the authors changed slightly, as the interpreters were getting too much.
- The amount for PLR is now connected with the amount (but not from the amount) allotted by the Ministry of Culture for acquisition for public libraries. It makes 10% and given by the same Ministry of Culture.

Legal deposit

Law on legal deposit (including e-resources) exist since 15th December 2006.

Levies

Levies are collected since 2005.

Creative Commons

Lithuania has no CC licences. No activities.

Legal matters

New legislation

The new law on Science and Studies is being discussed at the Parliament. This law is due to change the existing two laws – on Science and Studies and the Law on Higher Education. As radical changes are proposed in governance of higher education, it caused lots of discussions and formed opposition which prepared another version of the law. Lithuanian Research Library Consortium proposed an article mandating open access to research publications:

Publicity of the results of scientific activity

1. In order to guarantee the quality, transparency of the scientific research and to stimulate scientific advancement carried out utilising state budget funds, all the results of the scientific activity carried out in the state science and study institutions must be announced publicly if this is in agreement with laws regulating intellectual property and protection of the commercial secret.

2. Scientific works carried out using state budget funds (except special programm funds) are stored in electronic form in the Lithuanian science and studies electronic documents information system. The exact conditions of storage and access are defined by the Ministry of Education and Science.

This article is not in favor of the opposition, so nobody knows who will win after the final debates.

The Ministry of Culture is working on the concept of the Centre of Anti-piracy. The aim of such a centre is to coordinate and consolidate the activities of various institutions involved in anti-piracy activities.

Educational activities

During the National Library Week, which is held annually at the end of April, seminars, discussions, conferences, round tables, competitions about copyright issues were held throughout Lithuanian libraries.

Special presentation on Libraries and Copyright was presented for Armenian librarians visiting Lithuanian libraries in March 2008.

As country coordinator of IP programe of eIFL, I attended First Global eIFL-IP conference held in Istanbul, Turkey on 4-5 April 2008.

The course on copyright is beeing taught at the LIS (Vilnius University and Klaipeda University). Vilnius University is interested in distance learning course to be developed by the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard Law School (one of eIFL-IP activities). The course is due to be ready in 2009 and will be freely available for all interested.

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