

Country Report Sweden

Annual report to the IFLA CLM committee
Quebec City, Canada 2008

Copyright

No relevant revision of copyright law, or new legislation, has been passed after the implementation of the EU Infosoc directive in 2005.

The National Library is pushing for a revision of the clauses in the copyright act on extended collective licensing, to allow for licenses on the digitization and making available to the public of complete works (as opposed to only extracts and articles, which is the scope of the present wording).

As for the public lending right, by the end of 2007 the Swedish compensation scheme (like the Danish one) was finally accepted by the European Commission, in spite of the fact that it does not compensate foreign authors.

Open Access, and Creative Commons, is slowly coming on in Sweden. The Swedish Research Council signed the Berlin Declaration, and recommends, but does not require, that the research it funds be published Open Access.

In April 2008, the Swedish government initiated a survey of the Copyright Act, to deal with, i.a., issues concerning extended collective licences. Deadline the 31st of October 2010.

Legal matters

The much-awaited revision of the legal deposit law, to allow for the collection of documents published on the web, has still not been produced. The current guess is it will be before the end of 2009.

A gigantic, national row is currently raging over a new law, which gives the National Defence Radio Establishment (FRA), i.e. the Swedish national authority for signals intelligence, the right to wiretap all international Internet traffic into and out of Sweden. The fact that the law was actually passed in parliament late in spring this year has not silenced the critics, neither have the assurances from the government that the law is a necessary tool in the fight against international terrorism.

The European level

In general, it has to be pointed out that much of the ground in the area of copyright and other legal matters is laid out by the European Union, so much of the lobbying also takes place on the European level, e.g. by the FEP (Federation of European Publishers), and EBLIDA.

Over the last year, extensive discussions have taken place around, e.g., the digitization of orphan works, out-of-circulation works, digitization for preservation, and around the proposed extension of the copyright term for sound recordings.

Prepared by Kjell Nilsson
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