



International Federation of
Library Associations and Institutions



Library and Archives Statement on Museum Study

WIPO SCCR 31, December 10, 2015

Thank you, Mr. Chair. We congratulate on your continuing, effective leadership of this committee. I speak on behalf of the International Federation of Library Associations & Institutions (IFLA), the International Council on Archives (ICOM), and the numerous other library and archives organizations attending this SCCR.

Our organizations have represented libraries and archives at SCCR for more than a decade, discussing exceptions and limitations for libraries, and providing specific examples of areas where an international instrument is necessary to relieve barriers to access to knowledge in the public interest. Having invested so many years to discussing exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives in this body, we understand the need for clear definitions and examples to illustrate the need for international solutions.

We do recognize some of the commonalities in the objectives of libraries, archives and museums as cultural heritage institutions. I am particularly aware of this, as I direct the libraries, archives and museums in my university. Most of the world's museums have libraries and archives; and many libraries and archives have exhibition galleries. So we do share some common interests.

Thus, IFLA and ICOM note that among the existing topics already under discussion at SCCR for libraries and archives, exceptions and limitations addressing reproduction for preservation and research purposes, for example, could potentially apply also to those museums with a non-profit mandate.

IFLA, the International Council on Archives, and the International Council of Museums have a long history of working collaboratively at an international level when we have shared objectives, such as in the area of protection and preservation of cultural heritage on the International Committee for the Blue Shield. Therefore, we suggest that IFLA and ICA initiate independent discussions



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with ICOM, in coordination with other related associations, to clarify the specific areas where it might – and where it might not - be appropriate for museums to potentially be included in the existing work of SCCR on exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives. Thank you, Mr. Chair