



## **WIPO STANDING COMMITTEE ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS**

**29th Session: Geneva, December 8-12, 2014**

Mister Chairman/Madame Presider, I am speaking on behalf of IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. IFLA seeks to garner the assistance of WIPO in promoting an environment where libraries and archives across the globe can fulfill their professional and institutional obligations—obligations that for public entities are often mandated by governing documents and legislative or regulatory instruments—to facilitate the preservation of national and cultural heritage, foster education and research, promote literacy and social inclusion, and contribute to economic development and employment. Even the most privileged among us is poor in some way with respect to information; access to knowledge is essential to closing the information poor/rich divides among us.

Earlier this week I attended the Grey Literature 16 conference hosted by the Library of Congress; it was an international gathering of librarians, archivists, professionals and scholars who work with and rely on access to association, scientific and technical reports, theses and dissertations and other forms of ephemeral works known as “grey literature”. Attendees reported efforts to share a wide variety of content across borders including topography and cartography content from the Czech Republic, research literature from the Korean Institute of Science & Technology Information and community awareness of fracking in Nova Scotia, efforts that are impeded without legal support for cross-border exchanges. Securing a common, international copyright framework for libraries and archives allows for the collection and dissemination of content critical not only to the grey community but to all those dedicated to the dissemination of knowledge.

IFLA welcomes the updated findings presented by Professor Crews, in specific that a number of countries as well as the European Union are seeking to reform their copyright laws. Still, too few countries have a useful legislative framework of library and archive limitations and exceptions, especially in regards to cross-border flows of digital content. We believe this is one area as Professor Crews observed where national solutions can be unsatisfactory. This reality prevents libraries and archives from fulfilling their mission and function; often prescribed by law or government mandate as mentioned earlier. A framework of copyright limitations and exceptions will maximize economic development, preservation and education in its many forms and at the same time minimize global inequalities regarding access to knowledge.

We appreciate the proposals from Member States on libraries and archives, and we look forward to continued discussion on a way forward. The United States’ Objectives and Principles document, SCCR/26/8, presents the beginning of that meaningful way forward. Nonetheless, IFLA respectfully requests that the Committee continue to discuss the list of copyright exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives articulated in documents SCCR/26/3 and SCCR/29/4.



Finally, we ask that the Committee forego consideration of new topics until the existing agenda items—limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives, limitations and exceptions for education and research institutions and persons with other disabilities, and protection of broadcasting organizations—are successfully concluded. Mr. Chairman, Madame President, on behalf of IFLA I thank you for your attention, and we look forward to discussions furthering these topics.

Submitted by Tomas A. Lipinski, on behalf of IFLA.