



International Federation of
Library Associations and Institutions

WIPO STANDING COMMITTEE ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS

GRULAC Proposal on Copyright in a Digital Environment

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IFLA and the Uruguayan Library Association welcomes this valuable proposal from the GRULAC Group.

We have talked a lot about the urgency of updating our rules to reflect the digital environment. Through its recommendations, if the Committee accepts them, this paper will actually do it. The packed room at yesterday's side-event, where the esteemed Brazilian delegate presented this work, is testimony to the broad interest in these proposals.

We should not forget that libraries are part of the creative industries value chain. I am a librarian in Uruguay. My colleagues and I buy music, alongside books and other sources. And my colleague, the CEO of Tulsa Public Library who was here until yesterday, spends tens of thousands of dollars a year on the Sony music service every year.

The issues raised also have strong relevance to the library and archives sector as a whole.

We too are faced with copyright rules which, for the most part, seem to be in denial about the digital revolution. The current treaties do not ensure that libraries and archives can seize the opportunities that technology opened up for us years ago.

Libraries and librarians too are serious about supporting creators. Globally, we spend \$25bn a year on content, not to mention the additional money from public lending rights schemes where these exist.

As a librarian, I take seriously my responsibility to support literacy and a love of reading, and promote authors whose books my users will later go out and buy. We are a shop window for them.

Libraries know where we stand, and would welcome more transparency about how value is recognised and remunerated throughout the value chain. There are already interesting projects underway looking at flows of money through the scholarly publishing value chain.

Clarity, and an innovative look at how to ensure that true creators receive what they are due, is long overdue. We strongly congratulate the GRULAC group for its far-sightedness in calling for this.

Finally, we welcome the excellent explanation of how technological protection measures threaten the effectiveness and credibility of the exceptions and limitations that protect the human right of access to information. We will come back to this topic in the context of libraries and archives, but look forward to hearing more here.

Thank you.