



**Sample Text for a Letter to Governmental Copyright Representatives regarding comments to (SCCR/23/8 Prov.)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**NNN** holds the position that the current system of copyright limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives is not fit for the digital age. Library and archives groups have been advocating for an international treaty so that WIPO Member States establish a set of basic, minimum limitations and exceptions for the benefit of libraries, archives, and their users in their national copyright laws.

In 2008, the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) began a comprehensive review of the current state of copyright limitations and exceptions. During this period, WIPO commissioned a series of studies on limitations and exceptions in specific sectors, including libraries and archives. The results show that libraries work under a patchwork of provisions that differ in scope from country to country, many of which fail to provide the minimum level of legal certainty that libraries need to carry out their functions in the global, digital environment.

At the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the SCCR in November 2011, WIPO Member States agreed on further discussion of a list of topics relating to libraries and archives which includes preservation, right of reproduction and supply of copies, legal deposit, library lending, parallel importation, cross-border uses, orphan works, retracted and withdrawn works, liability of libraries and archives, technological measures of protection, contracts, and the right to translate works.

Member States have until February 29<sup>th</sup> 2012 to submit written comments to the WIPO Secretariat for inclusion in the document *Provisional Working Document containing comments on and textual suggestions towards an appropriate international legal instrument (in whatever form) on exceptions and limitations for Libraries and Archives (SCCR/23/8 Prov.)*, which will be discussed at SCCR/24 in 2012.

**NNN** members believe that it is very important for **NAME OF COPYRIGHT AUTHORITY HERE** to supply written comments to this process. In light of the February 29<sup>th</sup> deadline for further written input on the *Provisional Working Document*, I would like offer the help of **NNN** in contributing to any comments you might submit. Our members' practical experience in working with limitations and exceptions will be valuable in enabling WIPO Member States to fully engage with this issue going forward.

In addition, I would like to request an appointment with you at your earliest convenience to further discuss the copyright issues that libraries are facing in **NNN**, and to explore how the **NNN** government intends to engage with the issue at the next meeting of the SCCR in July 2012.

Many thanks again for the engagement of the **NAME OF COPYRIGHT AUTHORITY HERE** on this issue.

Yours faithfully,