



International Federation of  
Library Associations and Institutions



**WIPO STANDING COMMITTEE ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS, 24th Session  
Geneva, 16-25 July 2012**

**Joint intervention by  
IFLA: International Federation of Library Associations &  
EIFL: Electronic Information for Libraries &  
CLA: Canadian Library Association**

**Opening Statement**

Thank you, Mr Chairman. We congratulate you on your election as chair. I am speaking on behalf of the International Federation of Libraries and Information Associations (IFLA), Electronic Information for Libraries, and the Canadian Library Association.

We congratulate Member States on recently concluding a new international treaty for audiovisual performers. We echo the hope expressed by Director-General Dr. Francis Gurry, that the Committee 'continues to build on the excellent "spirit of Beijing" to take forward the work of the Organisation in other key areas, including exceptions and limitations first proposed by Chile as an agenda item in 2004.

In particular, we hope this body will recommend to the General Assembly this year a diplomatic conference on a treaty for visually impaired and print disabled people. Given the extensive discussions of this instrument to date, the maturity of the topic, and the demonstrable need for this treaty, prompt progress is essential. We furthermore encourage the Committee to expedite deliberations on libraries and archives, which is also a fast maturing issue, discussed comprehensively during SCCR23 and addressed subsequently in extensive comments as contained in SCCR/23/8/Prov., dated May 25, 2012.

We look forward to the commencement of discussions on education. Libraries are an integral part of the education and research process - indeed, many libraries are embedded in educational institutions – just as we are major providers of services to the print disabled. We are eager to contribute to discussions on both of these issues as they progress.

Libraries and archives are pro-copyright, recognizing that mature copyright regimes properly provide rights for both creators and users. It is essential that international norms be established soon to enable libraries efficiently and equitably to provide access to information

in the hybrid analogue and digital information environment of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Thank you for your attention. We wish the honourable delegates success in your deliberations, and stand ready to provide any information you may require regarding the needs of libraries and archives.