



ASSOCIATION OF
RESEARCH LIBRARIES



LIMITATIONS AND EXCEPTIONS FOR PERSONS WITH PRINT DISABILITIES
LIBRARY COPYRIGHT ALLIANCE
WIPO SCCR 23RD SESSION
GENEVA, 21-30 NOVEMBER 2011

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Library Copyright Alliance, representing the academic, research, school and public libraries in the United States.

We support the work of the Member States who have met in consultations to create the proposal under consideration. An international legal instrument to increase access to information for persons with visual impairment or print disabilities is vital to increasing access to knowledge for this population. We appreciate the positive progress that has been taken to develop a recommendation so that people with print disabilities can enjoy equal access to copyrighted materials.

Libraries are also stakeholders whose perspective and experience working as authorized entities may inform the process. As non-profit organizations acting as authorized entities, our libraries could continue to provide accessible format copies of copyrighted works for patrons with print disabilities. In keeping with their primary public service mission, libraries of all types provide services relating to education, training, adaptive reading, and information access as defined in Article A.

Being trusted intermediaries that maintain policies and procedures for ensuring compliance with copyright and other laws, we are recognized as authorized entities and should not need to seek further permission from rightsholders in order to create accessible copies of works already available to other patrons. Implementation of policies and procedures to fulfill this requirement should not place an unnecessary burden on libraries that are often funded by the public and possess limited resources. Furthermore, reporting requirements threaten longstanding privacy protections offered to library users and codified in many state and national laws in the US.

Thank you for your consideration.

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