



International Federation of
Library Associations and Institutions

29th of June 2021

IFLA Statement on Exceptions and Limitations 41th Session of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions would like to highlight that exceptions and limitations are essential to enable libraries, archives, museums, educational and research institutions to continue their public service missions.

Ahead of COP26, which will focus on how to limit the impacts of climate change, we believe that preservation of heritage is a priority. We encourage discussion towards the development of a model law or provisions that will allow heritage institutions to make copies of their collections for preservation purposes across borders, and allow access on similar terms to that given in analogue form today. In parallel, experts could be convened to design the contours of an international instrument that would deliver on the 2012 mandate.

In the face of the COVID crisis, we have also seen the limits of a lack of legal flexibility in the context of exceptions and limitations for education and research purposes. We believe strongly that governments, and so libraries and their users, would benefit from a clear enunciation of the possibilities that exist under international law in the form of a recommendation.

We cautiously welcome the suggestion of regional consultations on the impact of COVID for libraries, archives, museums and education and research institutions. This would certainly be a good way for SCCR to complement its work to date, and tackle issues related to this emergency in a timely manner.

However, to be effective, such seminars will truly need to focus on the experience of libraries, archives, museums, educators and researchers, and ensure that organisations representing their interests are involved fully in the planning of such sessions. There could also be a report of such sessions at the next meeting of SCCR, or preferably a special session earlier to bring together the conclusions and explore implications and next steps.

Sessions on the wider impact on copyright industries would be welcome, although would most logically represent a continuation of work on copyright in the digital environment under Item 8.

We thank you, Mr Chair.