



## LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS AT WIPO

Libraries are key partners in education, skills, culture, research and innovation policies. They drive growth, equality and wellbeing. Libraries have long supported the work of governments.

Libraries provide balance in the copyright system, offering fair remuneration to creators and rightsholders while ensuring that information, supporting creativity and innovation, is open to all. They also train users about permissible uses of copyrighted works.

However, with digital technology creating new modes of communications and possibilities for accessing and using knowledge, often across borders, citizens' needs and expectations are changing.

Threats, barriers and new rights are a poor response to the frustration learners, researchers and other library users feel when out-dated laws, contract terms, technological protection measures and other needless impediments stifle their ability to access and create knowledge.

Member States in meetings of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) have already discussed many of the challenges faced:

- A maze of different combinations of copyright exceptions for libraries, which discourages international cooperation
- A black hole in the archival record for in-copyright work
- A licensing system that focuses on profit, not access, with copyright exceptions overridden and unaffordable prices
- A failure to offer operational solutions for works which have no contactable rightholder
- A block on cross-border access to knowledge, forcing researchers either to give up, or pay to travel
- A lack of action to ensure that readers can do the same with digital knowledge as with books or journals
- An absence of fair dealing provisions

An effective, affordable and legal means of preserving and giving access to knowledge is essential for the sustainability and fairness of the copyright system. Libraries are ideally placed to support this goal, but need support from law-makers.

Achieving an international legal instrument on copyright exceptions and limitations for libraries, archives and museums at SCCR will facilitate the international progress of knowledge.

In supporting this effort, governments will be investing in their current and future effectiveness. We look forward to working together to achieve this at WIPO.

