



Canadian Library Association
Association canadienne
des bibliothèques

WIPO STANDING COMMITTEE ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS

28th Session: Geneva, July 2, 2014

Limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives

Thank you chair. I am speaking on behalf of the Canadian Library Association regarding the importance of an internationally binding global minimum standard of protections for libraries in order to enable them to meet the information needs of the citizens in each and every member state. The Canadian Library Association joins IFLA, ICA and colleagues from other organizations representing the global library and archive community.

CLA recognizes that libraries play an important role both in bringing global resources to the service of Canadian users through academic, special and public institutions and in supplying Canadian resources, through international protocols, such as interlibrary loan and document supply, to advance learning for researchers and inventors, to facilitate knowledge creation and creativity so essential to economic growth and social development. **A recent study in Toronto found that the return on investment for every dollar invested in libraries showed \$5.53 in positive economic impact. Libraries support learning, small business development, provide practical information and a network of connections to entrepreneurs.** These economic engines need information. In the digital world, the ready availability of research and information – and along with it all of its social and economic benefits – is under siege through restrictive license terms that undermine longstanding statutory rights.

While Canadians are appreciative of users' rights in copyright created through Parliament and the Supreme Court, further action is needed to prevent rightsholders from circumventing the copyright system through the use of licenses, thus negating copyright's balance for the benefit of society and overreaching the limits of copyright. Canadian libraries are often forced to sign contracts that limit their ability to interlibrary lend and sometimes even to print works. As an increasing amount of library collections are now comprised of licensed materials, action is required to reinstate the legislated rights of citizens.

Chair, I have just come from a UNESCO meeting in Warsaw hosted by the Government of Poland, where we prepared a Recommendation for preservation and access provisions for digital heritage materials through the Memory of the World programme. Libraries and archives around the world are very clear that they require "an international legal framework of copyright exceptions and limitations to ensure preservation of and access to cultural heritage in digital format..." Representatives from minority language groups and from countries of cultural plurality require the ability to translate items in cultural heritage collections in order to provide the widest possible access to knowledge for their citizens.

Chair, libraries and archives around the globe operate as "public goods" for the good of society and for the economy and are not commodifiable goods. These institutions require the legal framework to operate for the cultural and economic benefit of society.

SCCR too needs to submit a recommendation to effectively deal with limitations to copyright for libraries and archives, providing coherent UN leadership in the copyright sphere.

Thank you, Chairman.

Victoria Owen
Canadian Library Association E: owen@utsc.utoronto.ca
<http://www.cla.ca>