

The Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance



Convened by CILIP: the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals

c/o CILIP 7 Ridgmount Street London WC1E 7AE

21 May 2014

Dear Lord Younger

WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) Work programme on limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives

As you will know, the SCCR has been discussing copyright exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives and is due to submit recommendations to the WIPO General Assembly in September. These are vital to achieve an international copyright framework for libraries and archives that results in a global seamless flow of information and access to knowledge across borders for citizens and researchers.

The issue has been on SCCR's agenda since 2009, but detailed discussions of the 11 topics identified by Member States had only commenced last December after successful conclusion of the Marrakesh Treaty. Yet at the last meeting (SCCR27 28 April-2 May 2014) the European Union Member States and the European Commission objected strongly to progressing text-based discussions in accordance with the Committee's work plan that had been endorsed by the WIPO General Assembly. In doing so, the EU tried to reverse conclusions that had been agreed by consensus at previous meetings causing a breakdown in the Committee.

LACA is deeply disappointed and dismayed that this has happened. The EU's stance is not only hostile to the needs of library and archive users and researchers, but puzzling. This is surprising, given the Commission's and many Member States' support for Open Access and international research collaboration and given the ample information heard at SCCR meetings from the library and archive delegations describing the problems they and their users encounter in the cross-border digital environment. It is also worrying in light of the Commission's own ongoing consultations about updating Europe's copyright laws – to ensure the seamless flow of information and access to knowledge across the EU.

Chair Naomi Korn

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Representing ARA: The Archives & Records Association, ARLIS/UK & Ireland: The Art Libraries Society of the UK and Ireland, BIALL: British and Irish Association of Law Librarians, The British Library, CILIP: the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, IAML/UK & Ireland: The International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres, JISC: Joint Information Services Committee, LIS-COPYSEEK online community, Museum Libraries, The National Library of Scotland, The National Library of Wales, Share the Vision, Society of Chief Librarians in England and Wales, and SCONUL: Society of College, National and University Libraries, Wellcome Trust.

I enclose a letterⁱ addressed last week to the EU Presidency, Commissioners, Council Members and MEPs signed by 90 national, European and international research institutions, library and archive organisations. Since publication the number of signatories continues to grow.ⁱⁱ

A number of LACA members were in attendance at SCCR27 representing international, European and national library or archive organisations, who will also be attendance again at the next SCCR28 meeting which starts on 30th June. We therefore would really like to meet you again in person before this meeting to talk about the UK's own position on establishing an international copyright framework for libraries and archives. I do hope very much that this would be possible.

Additionally, we would be happy to learn how we might assist to ensure the passing of the two SIs that were held back in Parliament, in particular the proposed Quotation and Parody regulations. The Quotation exception especially, is a concern for library and archive users and researchers, given its importance in education and research and it is crucial for the outputs of the new text and data mining exception.

I look forward to your reply and hope we might meet again soon to discuss this.

Yours sincerely



Naomi Korn
Chair, Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance (LACA)

cc. Dr Ros Lynch, Mr Robin Stout

Enc. IFLA joint letter to the EU of 16 May 2014

ⁱ <http://www.ifla.org/node/8619>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.ifla.org/node/8621>