



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS DE BIBLIOTHECAIRES ET DES BIBLIOTHEQUES
INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG BIBLIOTHEKARISCHER VERBÄNDE UND EINRICHTUNGEN
FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE ASOCIACIONES DE BIBLIOTECARIOS Y BIBLIOTECAS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ФЕДЕРАЦИЯ БИБЛИОТЕЧНЫХ АССОЦИАЦИЙ И УЧРЕЖДЕНИЙ
国际图书馆协会与机构联合会
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات ومؤسسات المكتبات

Intervention by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) during the 57th General Assemblies

Agenda Item 13: Report on the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR)

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

Language: English

Mr. Director General, Mr. President of the General Assembly, Distinguished delegates,

I am speaking on behalf of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the leading international body representing the interests of information services and their users.

Library representatives have attended SCCR for many years, and we are very grateful for this opportunity, because we believe that this committee is the only place where some things can be pushed forward. It offers a unique opportunity to establish minimum international standards, and to adopt provisions that allow cross-border exchange of works. The Marrakesh Treaty, adopted in 2013, is a notable example of how SCCR can respond to the needs of citizens and make a meaningful change happen worldwide.

Member states recognised the need for WIPO to get involved in exceptions and limitations for libraries, archives and museums by placing the topic on the agenda. We understand there is an acknowledgement of the value that cultural heritage institutions bring to society, and of the ultimate goal of a system of intellectual property rights: to boost creativity and innovation, and not to kidnap creation.

Several steps have taken place ever since, such as the former Chair's informal chart on limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives, that we're willing to see included as a working document of the committee, or the commission of Kenneth Crews study and its latter update, that shows the fragmentation of library exceptions all over the world.

We welcome every step that will make an effective contribution to achieving SCCR's mission. We encourage member states to engage in open discussions without groundless fears, bearing in mind that it is not the excess, but the lack of exceptions in so many countries that is holding things back. It is a fact, as the Marrakesh Treaty has shown, that well-crafted action here at WIPO can make a difference on the ground.

We therefore welcome new ideas and possibilities for the committee's work. We particularly welcome the sense of purpose and energy of the Secretariat, and look forward to the promised action plan, in the hope that it will contribute to moving towards effective international solutions for the activities of libraries, archives and museums.

Thank you very much.