



ITEM 9: Proposal for Analysis of Copyright Related to the Digital Environment

SCCR, 36th Session: Geneva, June 1, 2018

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I speak on behalf of the International Federation of Library Associations. As underlined in previous SCCRs, IFLA strongly welcomes the GRULAC Proposal for Analysis of Copyright Related to the Digital Environment.

We are also very supportive of Brazil's proposal on how to address this topic and we hope this committee will consider it further.

The way we access and use works has changed, raising new challenges and exacerbating existing problems of access to protected works as well as just compensation for creators. An assessment of how benefits are distributed in this new paradigm would provide a solid basis for future work in the committee.

Certainly, as highlighted in the education side-event on Wednesday, in Canada, while photocopying levies may be providing lower revenues, total spending, boosted by increase purchasing of digital works, has grown. In the case of libraries, this responds to demand from users, who increasingly expect to be able to study not only through library computers, but also on their phone, tablet or other device, and when they continue research abroad.

But in order to understand the situation for individual creators, a microeconomic study would bring further clarity, and help fight some myths.

We trust, also, that this work will help illustrate the impact of the increasingly confusing web of rights that can apply to works in the digital environment. Beyond the looming orphan works crisis, a particular concern for libraries, the way in which revenues are distributed by a variety of different actors merits attention.

To this end, we both welcome WIPO's work to develop best practices for collective management, and worry that expansive new rights for broadcasters will only end up disadvantaging creators and other rightholders.

And last, we believe that such a study should take a holistic approach to how authors benefit from use of their works in libraries. Going beyond pure, short-term francs and centimes, it would show how, in popularising works and developing reading, libraries support the creators of the future.

Thank you very much.