



International Federation of
Library Associations and Institutions

Agenda item: protection of broadcasting organizations

SCCR, 37th Session. November 26, 2018

I am speaking on behalf of the international federation of library associations and institutions, the global voice of library services and their users. Through our 1200 member associations and institutions, we represent the world's 2.3 million libraries.

Broadcast material has an important value to society, because it often contains pieces of history or culturally relevant information.

Libraries are at the forefront of preserving and giving access. This is particularly vital when films do not become accessible, broadcasters' media libraries are not permanently available, or when recordings from the broadcaster are not offered or disproportionately expensive and transmitter archives are not accessible.

In Sweden, for example, broadcasting companies make only a limited volume of content available, and routinely refer researchers to the Swedish National Library.

The work of libraries in this area is indispensable, for example when university libraries contribute to the training of young artists by providing opera recordings for students of music and stage design, theater and ballet recordings for students of the performing arts and film recordings for film and drama students.

To carry out this mission, libraries need to identify existing rights, rightsholders, check whether and how an exception or limitation applies, etc. Additional layers of rights risk making this already complicated process impossible. Too many restrictions will make it impractical for libraries to carry out their mission, and heritage risks being lost.

We therefore encourage Member States to ensure adequate mandatory exceptions and limitations, at least equivalent to the ones applying to other rights in the broadcast work.

Thank you Chair.