



International Federation of
Library Associations and Institutions

Limitations and Exceptions for Libraries and Archives

SCCR, 37th Session. November 28, 2018

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I am speaking on behalf of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, representing 2.3M libraries in 140 countries.

Librarians are very enthusiastic about the action plans adopted by Member States at SCC36, since action and results at the international level are what we need after more than a decade of talking. We also look forward to hearing Mr. Crews' latest report on issues relating to limitations and exceptions for libraries.

A major lesson learned from this body's adoption of the Marrakesh Treaty is how much can be accomplished in this digital environment when nations – here at WIPO particularly – act in concert to resolve cross-border issues. While countries were able to enact legislation aiding the visually impaired within their own borders, example after example shared here demonstrated that the book famine could never be resolved at national level; and constructive action followed.

Likewise, libraries need comprehensive solutions for sharing knowledge across borders, particularly in those areas discussed here for the last decade and summarized in SCCR 34/5. We also know from the Rostama study that the creation of rights fit for the digital age has massively outpaced creation of exceptions for the digital age, eroding the balance between users' and owners' rights that is fundamental to fair and effective copyright regimes.

The current patchwork means that not only libraries and their users, but also publishers and other rightsholders, face a confusing, unworkable morass of provisions and terms that impedes the creation and dissemination of knowledge.

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