

WIPO STANDING COMMITTEE ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS
30th session: 29 June – 3 July, 2015

Statement of the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation
Associations (EBLIDA) on Preservation

Thank you Mr. Chair

The European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations, EBLIDA, is an independent umbrella association of library, information and documentation associations and institutions in Europe representing 100+ members in all EU member states and other European countries since 1992.

Libraries play an important role in the network of cultural institutions in charge of preserving nations' history and archives. Their mission is done on behalf of the general public, education and research.

I would like to emphasise that while conditions under which print¹ and other materials entering permanently into the library collection are different, most content provided online are offered as temporary services, ceasing upon the expiry of the subscription. In many cases, even when licenses provide for a perpetual right of access² in favor of the library and its users, libraries cannot obtain back-up files for preservation, but can only have access through the producer's website, who does not give guarantees for long-term preservation.

[The European Commission Recommendation of 27 October 2011](#), recital 16 highlighted that “[...] *in spite of progress made across the EU on the preservation of digital material, in several Member States no clear and comprehensive policies are in place on the preservation of digital content. The absence of such policies poses a threat to the survival of digitised material and may also result in the loss of material produced in digital format (born digital material).*”³

An international solution **providing a minimum level of international standards in preservation exceptions regardless of the format of publication** would support the development of comprehensive policies for the preservation not only of physical materials, but also of digital content for perpetuity.

¹ Because the exclusive distribution right is exhausted by the first sale in EU

² Post-termination clause