



WIPO STANDING COMMITTEE ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS
31st Session: Geneva, 07 – 11 December 2015
Agenda item 6: Limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives

Right of reproduction and safeguarding copies.

Thank you Mr. Chair for the opportunity to address the right of reproduction and safeguarding copies.

I am talking on behalf of EBLIDA, an independent umbrella association of library, information and documentation associations in Europe.

I fully support the statement from my colleague of IFLA, and **I would like to give you two concrete examples why a right to reproduction and safeguarding copied is much needed.**

1. My first example relates to the **Scott Polar Research Institute¹ (SPRI)**, established in 1920 as part of the **University of Cambridge** (United Kingdom). It is a centre of excellence in the study of the Arctic and Antarctic.

The Library of the Institute is a resource of national and international importance consulted by governments, industry, scientists and scholars. It offers a collection developed since the 1920s with over 700 current journals and over 140,000 volumes covering all subjects relating to the Arctic, the Antarctic, and to ice and snow wherever found.

The user community of the library of the Institute is actually the polar research community, therefore geographically disparate and scattered all over the globe that could hardly be expected to travel thousands of miles to consult or read a book or an article of a specialized magazine only available in the library.

At a time of global warming and climate change, whereas new copying technologies offer opportunity for efficient communication, allowing the SPRI library an exception for reproduction would help the researcher community to obtain a copy of the content it needs including via digital means and help advancing their research and find solutions beneficial to the world's population.

2. My second example comes from the **Public Library of Lyon** (France), one of the biggest Public Library in Europe.

Its collections scored about 3.8 Million items (excluded magazines and legal deposit documents).

Since 2009, the library gradually constitutes a heritage fund called Lyon's Music Memory gathering all the recorded musical productions (CDs, LPs, cassettes ...) having a link with the city of Lyon. The collection aims to be comprehensive and currently includes more than 5000 discs (...) and eventually, the capture of music published only in digital form must also enrich the fund.

The documents must be kept in a sustainable manner and made accessible and are therefore systematically scanned, i.e. copied. One of the direct effect of this fund is to develop a mission of supporting and valuing this musical creation.

¹ <http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/>.

Without a Right of reproduction and safeguarding copies, the library would risk losing a unique music collection that is a public good and a memory of both historical and contemporary importance.

To conclude, let me quote the European Commission communication ***Towards a modern, more European copyright framework*** released yesterday. *“The fragmentation of copyright rules in the EU is particularly visible in the area of exceptions. (...) This situation seems to be posing problems in particular for those exceptions that are closely related to education, research and access to knowledge. (...)The Commission will take action to ensure that the EU framework on exceptions that is relevant for access to knowledge, education and research is effective in the digital age and across borders”*.

Problems that are mentioned in the EU document are equivalent to the ones we are discussing in this forum. Therefore, an international solution **providing a minimum level of international standards in reproduction and safeguarding copies exception regardless of the format of publication** would support greater access to knowledge worldwide.

Thank you Mr. Chair.

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