



Creative Commons Statement to World Intellectual Property Organization Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights - 41th Session

June 29, 2021

Creative Commons (CC) is pleased to submit our statement in writing to the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights, Forty-first Session, on the item of Limitations and Exceptions.

Creative Commons is the world's leading non-profit organization that stewards the Creative Commons open copyright licenses and tools. However, CC licenses are not a substitute for limitations and exceptions (or "users' rights"), and CC supports efforts to reform copyright law to strengthen users' rights and expand the public domain.

In particular, CC supports galleries, libraries, archives and museums (GLAMs) and their public interest mission by pushing for strong, clear, and effective limitations and exceptions for, among others, preservation, research and education, and text-and-data mining and, generally, to ensure the global copyright framework is apt for the digital environment. Central to CC's copyright policy is making sure GLAMs' needs are treated on equal footing with those of copyright owners, in a balanced and fair manner.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for GLAMs. It has forced many institutions to draw deep on their resources and to quickly pivot their activities into the digital environment to meet the needs of their users, including researchers, learners of all ages, and the general public.

We cannot overstate the importance of copyright limitations and exceptions as the pillars on which GLAMs can rest to fulfill their mission of making the knowledge, information and cultural heritage that they care for available to the public.

We thus urge Member States to take action and find solutions to the challenges raised in the international copyright framework by the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences on GLAM institutions and their millions of users worldwide.

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