



Creative Commons Statement to World Intellectual Property Organization Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights - 42nd Session

May 2022

Creative Commons (CC) is pleased to submit our statement to the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights, relating to agenda item 7 (Limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives) and item 8 (Limitations and exceptions for educational and research institutions and for persons with other disabilities).

CC is the world's leading non-profit organization that stewards the CC licenses and tools and that drives copyright reform to support better sharing of copyright content in the public interest and in tune with the sharing possibilities unlocked in the digital environment.

In particular, CC promotes open culture, a positive, global policy framework that fosters the public-interest mission of libraries, archives, museums (LAMs) and other cultural institutions and ensures their needs are treated on equal footing with those of rightholders, in a fair and balanced manner.

At CC, we believe LAMs are essential to sustain vibrant and thriving societies. LAMs support education, research, creativity, innovation and the advancement of knowledge. They are the gateways through which the public can enjoy universal, inclusive and equitable access to the full diversity of cultural resources and experiences. LAMs also keep a reliable record of our heritage and preserve our collective memory for future generations. By making their collections available to the public, disseminating information, and serving as public forums to hold society-wide debates, they empower people to participate in civic life and build a sustainable future for all.

Open culture is conditioned upon strong, clear, and effective limitations and exceptions; the latter are the pillars on which LAMs can rest to fulfill their mission, notably in terms of preservation and uses for teaching, learning and research, including across borders. Global challenges such as climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic are causing unprecedented hardship to LAMs and the communities that they serve. These challenges magnify the vital importance of limitations and exceptions to facilitate LAMs' digital presence.

We thus urge Member States to endorse the Proposal by the African Group for a Draft work Program on Exceptions and Limitations (SCCR/42/4), which is geared towards solutions to create effective exceptions and limitations to support LAMs and their millions of users worldwide.

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