

IFRRO Statement at WIPO SCCR 19 July 2012

1. We thank you again, Mr. Chair, for giving the floor to IFRRO.
2. We will limit our comments to topics 8 on reproduction, 9 on distance learning and 10 on special education for persons with print disabilities in the compilation prepared by the Secretariat.
3. It is in the interest of all, including authors and publishers, that appropriate legal access to and use of educational material is provided in the easiest possible way.
4. More than a copyright and exceptions and limitations issue, appropriate access to adequate teaching material is a question of building appropriate infrastructures and sustaining the development of good teaching material. Material founded in local culture and traditions must be available to appropriately adapt to local and special user needs.
5. Earlier this week, Member State delegations presented various ways of doing this. They documented how existing exceptions and limitations in national legislation founded in Article 9.2 of the Berne Convention are combined with access through individual and collective licensing and remuneration to authors and publishers, together with other incentives to maintain a sustainable national publishing industry. This ensures the continued development of appropriately adopted high quality teaching materials.
6. Enhanced access was also a main purpose for the establishment of RROs. They began their activities in response to requests from educational institutions for the licensing of large scale copying of the world's scientific and cultural heritage for teaching and research purposes. When many sources are to be copied (as is often the case in education) it would be impractical to ask for permission directly from all the rightsholders concerned. RROs provide a one-stop shop for easy access to educational content in a way that is sustainable to all levels of education, public and private, enabling pupils and students, teachers, researchers to access protected works.
7. Copying done under a licence with a RRO would generally comprise portions of works - chapters or articles. This includes digitising of works and storing on internal networks or virtual learning environments, as well as Internet downloads.

8. When requested, such as in Canada and in the UK, RROs also include special education for persons with print disabilities in their licences. This would allow the producing and making available to students of alternate format copies. Such copies are not limited to portions of works.
9. Collective management is a concept appropriate for different types of economies. At the side event that IFRRO is offering on today at lunch time, in addition to examples from Australia, Denmark, France, Spain, the UK and the US we will also include presentation of activities and have representatives from Burkina Faso, Malawi, Jamaica and South Africa.

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