

ISTC International Agency goes live and appoints first Registration Agencies

The www.ISTC-International.org web site is now officially live and accessible. This gives details of the ISTC International Agency, of which IFRRO is a partner organization, and which is responsible for managing the ISTC standard and registrations. On 5 January it announced its appointment of Bowker and Nielsen Book as the first ISTC registration agencies that are now authorized to assign ISTCs on behalf of publishers, authors and other content owners. Details of the announcement and Bowker and Nielsen's plans are [available here](#). Those wishing to apply to become an ISTC Registration Agency should contact the International ISTC Agency to participate in the expression of interest process: James Boyd, Communication and Product Development, IFRRO at +32 2 551 08 97 or james.boyd@ifrro.org, or Eric Baptiste, Director General, CISAC at cis@cisac.org.

André Beemsterboer

It is with deepest sadness that we report the death of André Beemsterboer. André was a prominent member of the IFRRO community for many years, serving as President from 2000 to 2002 and as chair of various committees – latterly chair of the European Group, until illness forced him to relinquish his duties. All of us within the IFRRO family will remember him as a valued colleague, who was tireless in his promotion of copyright issues. The IFRRO President and Chief Executive have posted personal messages of appreciation and condolences on the [IFRRO website](#).

Czech Presidency pledges support to digital libraries as a way to safeguard cultural heritage

The Czech Presidency of the European Union will focus on the digitising of cultural material as one of its priorities. On 26 May 2009, Prague will host a [conference devoted to the European Digital Library](#). Together with France and Sweden, the Czech Republic is actively involved in the 'EU trio' format, which aims to bring more coherence and longer-term planning to the EU policy agenda. As well as supporting the European Digital Library, the trio will work on further improving the protection of intellectual property rights and on reinforcing the fight against counterfeiting.

Enhanced access to copyright works for Visually Impaired

The meeting of the WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights in November concluded that there was a strong need to examine enhanced access to copyright works for people with visual impairment including print disability. The [Conclusions](#) from the meeting stated that *"This should also include the possible establishment of a stakeholders' platform at WIPO, in order to facilitate arrangements to secure access for disabled persons to protected works"*. A first meeting between representatives of rightholders including IFRRO and the visually impaired to explore how this important initiative could be progressed took place on 19 January, facilitated by WIPO and with WIPO Director General Francis Gurry present for part of the meeting. It showed that a dialogue between stakeholders concerned has the potential of finding solutions to securing access to copyright works. Access Copyright and COPIBEC in Canada, CLA in the UK and CAL in Australia are among those RROs which licence access to works by people with impairment. Although only a few RROs include this in their current licensing schemes, subject to mandates from rightholders, they are advised also by a [WIPO commissioned study](#) to get more actively involved in this activity. (See also IFRRO News [IFRRO News Volume 10 No 3 July 2007](#))

CEDRO/ICLA - new bilateral agreement

CEDRO and ICLA have signed a new agreement that covers analogue and digital fields. This new Agreement replaces the 2005 bilateral reprographic rights and fee exchange agreement and means that both RROs repertories will be available to give photocopying and digital uses licenses in their own countries to exchange the corresponding revenues.

SADEL – the Chilean RRO finally approved

On 19 January the Chilean government finally approved [SADEL](#) set up by the Chilean authors and publishers and incorporated in 2003 as the country's RRO. This has been a long struggle with no apparent reason for the government not to grant the approval. SADEL is now ready to start up its licensing activities for the benefit of users and society getting enhanced access to copyright works as well as for rightholders who will be remunerated for the use.

Google update

The full [Google Book Search Settlement website](#), including claiming functions, is now available in English. Other languages are rolling out starting 19 January through early February 2009. The Settlement Website includes general information, e.g the Notice (which explains the Settlement's details), the Summary Notice (which will appear in publications in 71 languages in more than 200 countries), answers to frequently asked questions, but also grants the possibility to opt out of the Settlement and to fill in the Claim Form in order to receive cash payments under the Settlement.

CADRA changes its revenue distribution rules

CADRA, has changed the rules governing the distribution of revenue to authors and publishers. The new rules, which were developed initially in the 2005 GEDRI/IFRRO workshop in Brazil, mean that payment will not only be based on the amount of photocopies that are made, but also on the membership of the RRO. The total sum paid out in its last distribution was €13.665.32.

OAPI enhances its focus on copyright

At the conference that the Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI, www.oapi.int) organised in Dakar on 4-6 November 2009, the OAPI Director General, Mr. Paulin Edou Edou noting the lack of collective management organisations and IP systems in the policy and development plans of members states, presented OAPI's action plan for the coming years with an [ambitious program](#) directed towards copyright. This includes a program for an enhanced administration of intellectual property and an education program. IFRRO signed a cooperation agreement with OAPI in 2007 ([IFRRO News Volume 10 No 5 December 2007](#)). Under this agreement OAPI, IFRRO and WIPO have agreed to develop an education program on intellectual property towards the OAPI Member States which should also contribute to the realization of OAPI's action plan in this field.

CEDRO's collection decreased last year

Last year, CEDRO collected 41.50 million euros, which means a decrease of 4.78 million euros compared to 2007. This decrease of 10.33 % is due to the new equipment levy regulation in Spain that was passed on 19 June 2008, coming into force in the last quarter of that year. This regulation supposed a dramatic reduction of the tariffs to be paid for the devices of which CEDRO collects this levy.

Philippines Workshop on Book Piracy and the operation of RROs

A workshop, organized by the recently formed Philippines RRO, FILCOLS, was held at the University of the Philippines on 7/8 December 2008. Participants included local publishers, representatives of the IP Office of the Philippines Government and of the National Book Development Board, FILCOLS Board members and some of the university's academic staff. Philippines legislation effectively limits collective licensing for education to licensing for printed course packs, so FILCOLS has started licence discussions with the Jose Rizal University. FILCOLS will be applying for IFRRO membership in February 2009.

New Chief Executive of DACS

Gilane Tawadros has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of the UK Design and Artists Copyright Society (DACS). She will replace Joanna Cave as from February 2009. Gilane has spent her career in the visual arts and is currently studying for a Masters in Law in Human Rights, including intellectual property rights.

Digital Breakthrough in Norway

During the last five months, Kopinor has entered into several digital agreements, allowing digital use of copyrighted material in primary and secondary schools, public administration and the Church of Norway. The agreements permit a wide range of internal digital activities, including scanning, downloading, storing, printing out, use in Learning Management Systems and interactive whiteboards etc. The original sources may be analogue or digital, and all published material is covered – due to mandates and the Extended Collective License – with certain exceptions for daily newspapers.

Veraliah Bueno – IFRRO's new Communications and Information Officer

Veraliah Bueno has a master degree in Communications at the Complutense University. She was part of the CEDRO communication staff back in 2003. She also worked for 4 years for the Mexican RRO, CeMPro, responsible for Communications.

EVENTS Preview of 2009

26 May 2009, Conference Digital access to cultural heritage, Prague, Czech Republic
4 June 2009, Digital Issues Forum, Madrid, Spain
9-10 June 2009, World Copyright summit, Washington DC, USA.