



**Canadian Association
of Research Libraries**

**Association des bibliothèques
de recherche du Canada**

December 07, 2011

Ms. Ingrid Parent
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
P.O. Box 95312
2509 CH The Hague
Netherlands

Dear Ms Parent:

RE: IFLA Treaty Proposal on Copyright Limitations and Exceptions for Libraries and Archives

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL), comprised of 32 major research libraries across Canada; I would like express CARL's full support for the *IFLA Treaty Proposal on Copyright Limitations and Exceptions for Libraries and Archives*. CARL's mission is to enhance the capacity of Canada's research libraries to partner in research and higher education, seeking effective and sustainable scholarly communication and public policy encouraging of research and broad access to scholarly information. The IFLA Treaty Proposal represents the extension of this mission to the international level. It is nothing less than a giant, visionary leap forward for libraries and archives throughout the world.

Libraries enable and encourage creativity and innovation in the social, cultural and scientific sectors. By collecting, organising, preserving and providing access to information libraries support the fostering and sharing of ideas and knowledge. This occurs while libraries stimulate and enable creativity, and innovation, locally and throughout the world. Without adequate access to information, creators do not have access to materials necessary to innovate and enrich human knowledge. Libraries provide this access while playing a key role in educating the public about the intellectual property rights of creators and the responsibilities of individuals to respect those intellectual property rights.

The pace of today's global economy makes access to, and the production of, knowledge a major factor in a nation's development and success. For libraries to fulfill their vital role they need adequate copyright limitations and exceptions that balance the rights of users with the needs of creators. Unfortunately at present many libraries and archives work under a patchwork of provisions that differ in scope and effect from one country to another. These provisions increasingly fail to address the many challenges and opportunities of the global digital environment. Today more than ever before, libraries need an international copyright framework that recognises their central role within communities, and can ensure that the needs and rights of library users everywhere are fulfilled.

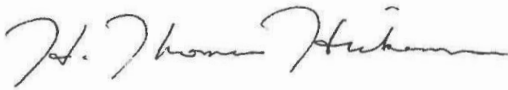


The *IFLA Treaty Proposal on Copyright Limitations and Exceptions for Libraries and Archives* means to address just this problem. The treaty proposal suggests a basic foundation for all countries, setting out a framework for national copyright laws that is flexible and consistent with existing international law. It has been designed to accommodate common needs, as well as differentiation, according to levels of development and particularities within WIPO Member States. The treaty was carefully constructed in consultation so as not to impose a 'one size fits all' approach, and is meant to act as a binding international instrument on copyright limitations and exceptions to enable libraries to preserve their collections, support education and research, and lend materials freely.

CARL commends IFLA for its commitment to universal and equitable access to information, and the preservation of the world's cultural heritage in the global digital environment. We hope WIPO member states share our support for this project that has the potential to enhance human, social and economic development, while encouraging creativity and innovation for the benefit of all members of society.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact our Executive Director Brent Roe.

Sincerely:



Tom Hickerson
President/président
Canadian Association of Research Libraries
Association des Bibliothèques de Recherche du Canada



Brent Roe
Executive Director/directeur général
Canadian Association of Research Libraries
Association des Bibliothèques de Recherche du Canada