


Regional Seminar
Exceptions and Limitations to Libraries, Archives and Educational Institutions



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Topic 7 Libraries and collaborations cross-border


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Cross-border collaboration

Two examples

- Library operations - preservation
- Information services to library users





LIBRARY OPERATIONS

Preservation: from a national to an international activity

- Preservation of documentary and cultural heritage, rare or special works - "Memory of the World"
- Preservation is costly: equipment, planning, expertise, constant migration to new formats as old formats become obsolete
- Usually funded by public money (or public-private partnerships)




Obsolete players at British Film Institute archive

LIBRARY OPERATIONS

- Costly **digitization efforts are often duplicated** i.e. same item digitized by different libraries AND available only in each individual library
- Expensive duplication is no longer feasible – lower costs and **better value for public money**
- Moving towards **shared infrastructures** (software, servers, expertise) for preservation and digitization activities
- This means collaboration at national level, and **regional and international cooperation**




INFORMATION SERVICES TO LIBRARY USERS

No library is an island


A library cannot own every book or subscribe to every electronic journal, no matter how well resourced the institution

Libraries cooperate in formal and informal networks to help people get the information they need for their work, study, and research




Picture: blickwinkel / Alamy

First they look for the information locally, then they look to libraries in other countries



INFORMATION SERVICES TO LIBRARY USERS


- Quality research requires **access** to a broad range of research materials
- We know that **world class research** requires an information infrastructure that supports easy access to international research results
- And we also know that lack of access means **missed opportunities** and delayed discoveries





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FACT

As new opportunities for search and resource discovery are enabled by the internet, there is a growing demand for access to materials, such as journal articles, book chapters, reports, etc. held in libraries in other countries



WorldCat, an online union catalogue searches the collections of 72,000 libraries in 170 countries in multiple languages for all kinds of physical items, and new kinds of digital content.



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FACT

Libraries support the work of scientists and scholars that is increasingly collaborative, inter-disciplinary and global.



European Research Area: optimal access and transfer of scientific knowledge

"Evidence shows that much of the best research in Europe takes place as a result of international, cross-border collaboration. Our information infrastructure must be globally oriented, and underpinned by a legal framework that supports seamless access to information and enables its exploitation for innovation". Statement by LIBER, Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche, at WIPO SCCR/27


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FACT

National border changes, emigration, shared languages, and a host of other reasons mean that a library in one country often has content of unique cultural and historical significance to people in other countries

For example, libraries in Baltic and Nordic countries contain socially valuable material that reflect the shared histories of people across the region.


The printed heritage of Latvia is scattered across institutions in Estonia, Finland and Russia.



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Cross-border information flows

Survey of 15 libraries by the Australian Library and Information Association showed that every single library participated in cross-border collaborations, requesting and supplying content not available locally in 77 countries



Most libraries had requests for information refused due to copyright restrictions

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Does copyright law support a seamless information infrastructure?

No!

- Just 11% of WIPO Member States (21 countries) have an exception for document supply in their national law
- Almost no countries have addressed the issue of cross-border transfer of content.

Source: WIPO Crews study

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Does it matter?

Yes!

- For students and faculty around the world, it makes their research more difficult. It sends out the message that copyright is a barrier to research and learning.
- For libraries, it reduces their effectiveness in supporting science and scholarship. It undermines the library's role in explaining the importance of copyright to their users.
- From the policy perspective, it reduces efforts to build respect for the law in society. If people cannot get reasonable access to content they need for education, leisure and lifelong learning, it represents a policy failure.

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This is why the international library community is at WIPO asking for an international exception to support cross-border document delivery.

To support global science and research.

To support development.

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Thank you!

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