



knowledge without boundaries

EIFL-IP

Promoting a fair and balanced copyright system

Helping library development in Uzbekistan: campaign for a progressive copyright law

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Results of an EIFL-IP funded project

“Building a democratic state based on a strong civil society, increasing political participation and creating a legal culture for citizens is a priority for our country. As a former library director, I know that libraries are vital to this process. We need a legal framework that supports the development of networked electronic libraries and technologies for scientific and educational information. I am pleased to have been part of this project that engages libraries in the legislative process, and encourages cooperation between stakeholders”.

Hafizahon K. Karimova, Deputy at the Legislative Chamber of the National Assembly (Oliy Majlis), People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (PDPU)



THE CONTEXT

In 2005, Uzbekistan joined the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, and since 1994, has been an observer government at the World Trade Organization.

Significant resources are currently being invested in improving library services that includes [the construction of a new National Library of Uzbekistan](#) with modern reader facilities, and a national programme for digitization of library resources. In 2011, an information and library law set out the duties and activities of Uzbek libraries in the digital age, such as library automation and networks, and the provision of e-resources. At Tashkent University of Information Technologies, a new department of Information and Library Systems is being established.

However legal and knowledge barriers stand in the way of developing an effective information society that will help generate the next wave of creators and innovators. The Law on Copyright and Related Rights (2006), that deals mainly with analogue materials, is out of step with the digital environment, and with the activities mandated in the 2011 library law. To facilitate the creation and use of digital collections in libraries, a framework for licence agreements with rightsholders is needed that takes into account the interests of all parties. But negotiations in this field are hampered due to a lack of knowledge among librarians, a lack of learning resources in local languages and no effective programmes on library copyright, licensing or building relations with rightsholders. The project aims to address these barriers by developing new materials, raising awareness of digital copyright issues among librarians and engaging with policy-makers to update the copyright law.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project partners were Tashkent University of Information Technologies (TUIT), Tashkent Institute of Arts and Culture (formerly Tashkent State Institute of Culture), the National Library of Uzbekistan, Fundamental Library of the Academy of Science, and the State Agency on Intellectual Property of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The project goals were to:

- conduct a campaign to improve the legislative copyright base, especially for electronic resources in order to “brisk up” library reform;
- enable better quality licence agreements between libraries, publishers and authors;
- develop the teaching of copyright to librarians in higher education institutions.

The expected results are recommendations for an improved copyright law, librarians skilled to negotiate mutually beneficial licence agreements for digitization, and the creation of toolkits in copyright for librarians.

STRATEGIES AND TACTICS

- Establish a team of experts from the target groups to provide support and advice – library and legal academics, librarians, lawyers and policy-makers.
- Translate key resources on library copyright issues into Uzbek and Russian e.g. EIFL-IP materials, and distribute to the target groups.
- Organize round tables with stakeholders on themes relating to digital copyright and licensing to start the discussion and to get views and opinions.
- Develop and submit proposals to the legislative authorities to improve the Law on Copyright and the framework for licensing.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ “Copyright on Electronic Publications”, a new 250-page collection of reference and teaching materials on copyright for libraries received recommendation by the Legislative Chamber of the National Assembly for use in libraries, universities and by the legislative authorities (4th January 2013).



- ✓ Seminars attended by more than 70 parliamentary deputies, copyright officials, librarians, lawyers, academics and publishers provided the first opportunity for an in-depth discussion in Uzbekistan on copyright and electronic publications, that has led to a deeper understanding of the impact of copyright and licensing on digital libraries by all stakeholders.
- ✓ Achieved the support of parliamentary deputies who will consider introducing updates to modernize the copyright law. The chances of an improved legislative base are significantly improved as a result.
- ✓ A template for three types of licences for digitization projects has been produced that provides a solid base for future work helping librarians to negotiate licence agreements with rightsholders.
- ✓ The teaching of copyright has been improved with the piloting of two topics, “Copyright for electronic publications” and “Licensing”, on the masters degree course at Tashkent University of Information Technologies (TUIT). As a result, newly graduating librarians - about 80 each year - will be able to share their knowledge in the Republic’s libraries in the years to come.

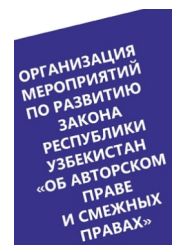
ACTIVITIES

▪ Established a project team of library, legal, policy and IT specialists:

- Prof. Dr. Omon Okyulov, Tashkent State University of Law, State Agency on Intellectual Property, co-author of the copyright law;
- Hafizahon K. Karimova, National Assembly parliamentary deputy, former library director;
- Dr. Barno Ganieva, Head of Department Information and Library Systems, TUIT;
- Aliya Japarova, Head of Public Relations Department, National Library of Uzbekistan;
- Irina Gartmen, Senior Librarian, Republican Information and Library Center;
- Dr. Abdurakhman Khundibeav, Director Computer Asia Ltd.

▪ **Published an anthology “Copyright on Electronic Publications** - the first of its kind in Uzbekistan – from selected resources such as “Copyright for Librarians”, the EIFL-IP Draft Law on Copyright, and EIFL guides translated into Uzbek, adapted for the local legal environment with additional comments for teaching purposes, local articles, legislative recommendations and templates for digitization licence agreements. 200 printed copies were distributed to the National Assembly, libraries, universities; an electronic version is available online at www.tuit.uz.

▪ **Created a promotional booklet** for the project and EIFL activities in Uzbekistan, 100 copies distributed to key stakeholders.



Organized events on key issues in line with the project goals:

▪ **Roundtable discussion “E-editions and copyrights”** with participants from the National Assembly (Information Services), Tashkent State University of Law, Republican Information and Library Center, Republican Scientific Medical Library, E-LINE Ltd., librarians, students, and project partners. Dr. Marat Rakhmatullaev and Dr. Abdurakhman Khundibaev, EIFL-Uz team gave presentations on the issues, project plans and publications at a lively meeting that continued its discussions afterwards online (November 2012).

▪ **Seminar on “Library-Publisher-Author Agreements and licensing”** with more than 25 directors from leading libraries, publishing houses, lawyers, university rectors and pro-rectors on co-operation for copyright issues. There were many diverging opinions that illustrated the importance of starting a discussion of this “hot” topic. [Read a report in a popular online newspaper](#) (January 2013).

▪ **Seminar on “Copyright in the learning programs of library faculties”** held at TUIT Department of Information and Library Systems (ILS) to discuss introducing the teaching of copyright to librarians, attended by 12 lecturers and masters students who offered their recommendations to the project team. As a result, two new topics – “Copyright for electronic publications” and “Licensing” – are being piloted in the masters course “World Information Resources”.



Seminar at TUIT ILS department

- **The project results were presented at the final project seminar** to approx. 25 librarians and academics when “Copyright on Electronic Publications”, seminar outcomes, results of discussions, and relations between libraries and rightsholders were presented at Tashkent Institute of Rail Transport (February 2013).



Q&A at the final project seminar

- **Presented the project and recommendations to improve the legislative base at the National Assembly Committee on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)**, attended by more than 25 members of parliament, copyright officials, lawyers and academics that led to official approval of the anthology on copyright for libraries (December 2012).

LESSONS LEARNT

- Be open and communicative - invite all interested parties to participate in roundtable discussions, and distribute materials to a wide range of libraries, universities, publishers, lawyers and policy-makers. Be ready to receive comments and criticisms - it creates a buzz!
- We didn't expect the translation work to take so long or to generate such heated debate. It became clear that librarians and lawyers have very different understandings of the terminology e.g. in the Glossary of the curriculum “Copyright for Librarians”. It showed the importance of working together with specialist copyright lawyers to reach a common understanding of the legal concepts and library needs. We expect the debates to continue for another while yet!
- Some library directors are pessimistic about the ability to reach agreement with rightsholders on electronic copies. We know it is hard but to achieve results, we must work together, build national coalitions, get support from our policy-makers and be aware of international developments.

THE FUTURE

- Our team will participate in meetings at the Legislative Chamber where copyright is discussed, for example, Committee on Information and Communication technologies (ICT) and Committee on Science, Education, Culture and Sport. We will work with deputies to promote our recommendations to the copyright law, according to the parliamentary schedule.
- We will disseminate the project results and Collection materials widely, and will make presentations at selected events, such as 5th annual seminar “Technologies of Scientific, Educational and Technical Information Development and Use in the Network of Electronic Libraries” (March 2013), 7th International Conference Central Asia “Information and library resources for science, education, culture and business” (April 2013), ICT Summit (September 2013).
- We will seek funding opportunities to continue the education and training components of the project, for example, through the EU TEMPUS programme.

EIFL-IP supported this project with a grant of €3,950. The project began in July 2012 for a duration of seven months. For more information, please contact the Project Manager, Dr. Marat Rakhmatullaev <marat56@mail.ru>

For information on other EIFL projects in support of national copyright law reform, visit www.eifl.net/advocacy-campaigns-national-copyright-law-reform