

# MEET THE PEOPLE

BENEFITING FROM  
EIFL'S COPYRIGHT AND  
LIBRARIES PROGRAMME



**eifl** KNOWLEDGE  
WITHOUT  
BOUNDARIES



# The EIFL Copyright and Libraries Programme

Digital content has transformed library services and how information is discovered and delivered. But evidence shows that national copyright laws, that regulate how information is accessed and used, have not kept pace with technological developments. The problem is particularly acute in developing countries where libraries are often not permitted to do basic things, such as copying part of a work for research or study purposes, or they are not allowed to make a digital copy.

Without modern copyright exceptions and limitations, libraries cannot properly support education and research, access to information or meet the needs and expectations of library users in the digital environment. This is why we advocate for copyright laws that enable libraries to deliver services expected in the 21st century. Since 2005, EIFL has helped to shape copyright laws in 14 partner countries.

In 2005 EIFL obtained observer status at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), where we advocate for an international treaty on copyright limitations and exceptions for libraries, to ensure equality of access to information through libraries everywhere.

From 2008-2020, the EIFL Copyright and Libraries Programme supported negotiations at WIPO that led to the adoption of the Marrakesh Treaty for persons with print disabilities in 2013, and its ratification and implementation in EIFL partner countries. Twenty-two partner countries have now joined the Treaty and many have already implemented the required changes in national copyright law, opening doors to education and knowledge for tens of thousands of blind, visually impaired or otherwise print-disabled people.

In 2020 the EIFL Copyright and Libraries Programme celebrated its 15th anniversary.

**[MEET THE PEOPLE FEATURED IN EIFL'S ANNUAL REPORTS \(2014 - 2019\)](#)**

# INGA DAVIDONIENE

## DIRECTOR, LITHUANIAN LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND LITHUANIA

The Marrakesh Treaty gives libraries the right to convert printed works into accessible formats (such as braille, audio, large print and digital accessible formats) for print-disabled people without having to ask permission from rightsholders, and to share these works across borders. By the end of 2019, 88 countries worldwide had joined the treaty.

In September, EIFL co-organized a workshop for a group of neighbouring countries – Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Russia – that have either completed or are advancing implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty into national law. The workshop focused on practical steps for libraries to take to make full use of their new rights under the treaty.

The Lithuanian Library for the Blind (LAB) hosted the workshop.

“There are 19,000 blind and visually impaired people in Lithuania and they request material in various languages, including Russian and Polish,” said Inga Davidoniene, Director of LAB.

“Since the workshop, we have requested and received 16 publications in accessible formats from Książnica Podlaska library in Poland. We agreed metadata for cataloguing with their librarians, and the transfers were made using the online file transfer service Wetransfer. The workshop gave us the practical knowledge to do this,” said Inga.

**IN 2019:** Thailand and Zimbabwe joined the Marrakesh Treaty, bringing the number of EIFL partner countries that have joined the Treaty to 16.



“The workshop helped to create a regional team with one goal – to fully implement the Marrakesh Treaty for the benefit of our users. Now we have a clear vision for the concrete steps to be taken to receive material that we need to serve our users.”

- INGA DAVIDONIENE

# PROFESSOR ALLAN ROCHA DE SOUZA

## UNIVERSITY LECTURER BRAZIL

Professor Allan Rocha de Souza lectures in law at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. As an educator, he is keenly aware how copyright laws hinder provision of high-quality knowledge to students.

“When teaching, you need the most up-to-date research and educational resources. But most universities in developing countries do not have the necessary access. Copyright law as it is in most developing countries, complicates teaching and learning,” he said.

Prof Rocha de Souza believes an international treaty setting exceptions and limitations that allow for reasonable copying and sharing would help improve education.

EIFL advocates at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for international copyright law reform that benefits library users, researchers and educators. In 2017, EIFL supported participation of Prof Rocha de Souza at a panel discussion at WIPO on challenges and opportunities for copyright and education in the digital environment.

“After the event, many government delegates approached me about how important it was to hear about copyright from the perspective of a developing world educator,” he said. “That’s why, to effect change, we must tell our stories.”

**IN 2017:** EIFL made 6 interventions at WIPO in support of international copyright law reform.



“We need an international treaty to set global standards for modern ways of teaching and learning.”

- PROF ALLAN ROCHA DE SOUZA



## TIN WIN YEE

### LEADER, COPYRIGHT ADVOCACY FOR LIBRARIES MYANMAR

Tin Win Yee, Group Leader of the Myanmar Library Association (MLA) Legal Affairs Committee, and EIFL Copyright Coordinator in Myanmar, led library advocacy to ensure that Myanmar's new copyright law, adopted in May 2019, would enable the development of modern, effective library services.

The Copyright Law of 2019 is one of many new laws that are being introduced as the country shifts to democracy after more than 50 years of military rule. It replaces a law enacted over a century ago, in 1914.

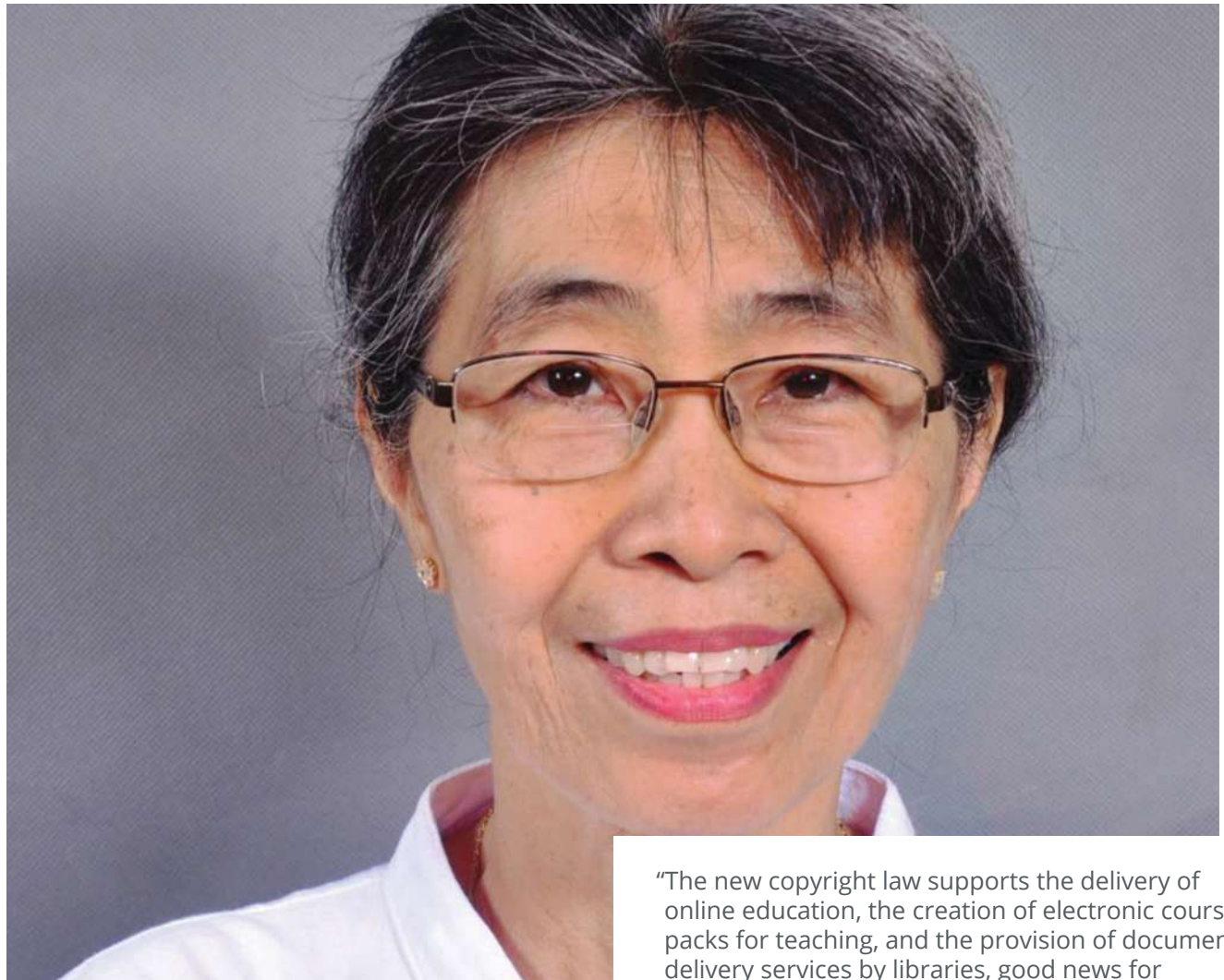
"We have over 5,000 libraries in Myanmar. It was essential that the new law would include appropriate limitations and exceptions to give libraries the freedom we need to support research and education, especially national priorities such as distance education," said Tin Win Yee.

EIFL reviewed the new copyright law at the draft stages, made recommendations on library provisions, held discussions with the local library community and met with policy-makers in Myanmar.

In 2017, the MLA submitted suggestions – including EIFL's recommendations – to Parliament when the copyright bill was being debated.

"Our advocacy was successful. Our suggestions on library provisions were included in the new copyright law," said Tin Win Yee.

**IN 2019:** EIFL engaged in copyright law reform in 20 countries in the EIFL network.



"The new copyright law supports the delivery of online education, the creation of electronic course packs for teaching, and the provision of document delivery services by libraries, good news for learning and research in Myanmar."

- TIN WIN YEE

# GULNAZ ZHUZBAEVA

## DIRECTOR, KYRGYZ FEDERATION OF THE BLIND KYRGYZSTAN

Gulnaz Zhuzbaeva is director of the Kyrgyz Federation of the Blind, which provides training for independent living for blind people. She is herself blind: "I am completing a master's in business administration because I want to make our organization sustainable in future," said Gulnaz.

However finding books in formats like braille, large print and audio, or accessible digital formats, was difficult.

"Copyright restrictions prevented me from getting most of the books I need," said Gulnaz.

"Then in 2018 my university library was able to get a book, 'The Lean Startup', by Eric Ries in a format I can read, from a university in another country – because Kyrgyzstan had recently joined the Marrakesh Treaty."

The Treaty provides the legal right to convert printed works into accessible formats for print-disabled people without having to ask permission from rightsholders, and to share them across borders. EIFL supported the Marrakesh Treaty advocacy campaign in Kyrgyzstan and helped to facilitate the transfer of the book from the University of Toronto in Canada.

On 23 April 2018, Gulnaz became the first student in Kyrgyzstan to receive an accessible format book from another country, as a result of the Marrakesh Treaty.

**IN 2018:** EIFL supported ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty in 10 EIFL partner countries.



"The Marrakesh Treaty is a great opportunity. When we cannot find books here in Kyrgyzstan we can request an accessible format copy from another country."

- GULNAZ ZHUZBAEVA



# GORATA MATOME

## STUDENT

### UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA, GABORONE

One day, when he was 15, Gorata Matome woke up to find a large dark spot in his vision. "From that day forward, I was partially sighted," he said.

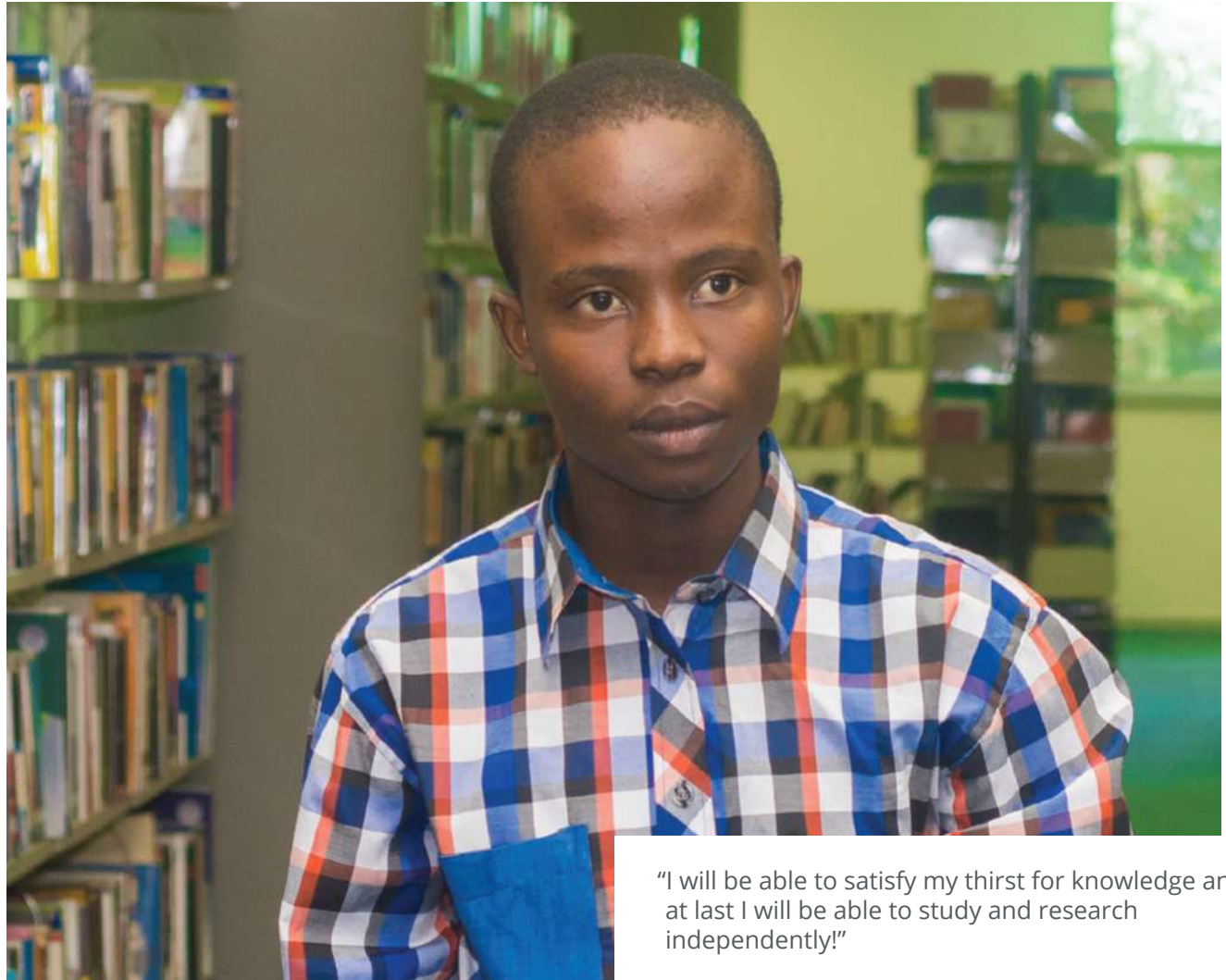
Today, aged 22, he is a third-year student of Environmental Studies and English at Botswana University. Studying is a struggle, because the library has very few books in accessible formats like braille, large print or audio. "I rely on librarians and friends to read books and articles for me," he said.

But the future looks bright. In 2016 the Marrakesh Treaty entered into force, and Botswana was among the first 25 countries to ratify the Treaty. The Treaty gives organizations like libraries the right to reproduce printed works in accessible formats and to exchange these works across national borders. EIFL has been a strong advocate for ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty and its implementation into national law.

Once the Treaty has been implemented into Botswana's copyright law, blind and visually impaired people will have access to thousands more books.

"The Treaty will help all visually impaired people – starting from primary, junior and senior schools. We will be able to compete equally with people who can see, and many more of us will be able to enter professions like law and medicine," said Gorata.

**IN 2016:** EIFL supported Marrakesh Treaty ratification in eight EIFL partner countries.



"I will be able to satisfy my thirst for knowledge and at last I will be able to study and research independently!"

- GORATA MATOME

# BARBARA SZCZEPANSKA

**LIBRARIAN**  
**WARSAW, POLAND**

Barbara Szczepanska is passionate about modernizing copyright law so that libraries are better able to serve people's information needs. Therefore she has willingly given her time to managing an EIFL project supporting reform of Poland's copyright law.

Barbara was at the forefront in ensuring that the interests of libraries and library users were fully represented in the law review process. This work bore fruit in November 2015 when the new Polish Copyright Act was adopted.

The new law enables libraries to digitize material for socially beneficial purposes, such as education. "In the past researchers put pressure on librarians to digitize materials to support their teaching, and librarians were not certain that what they were doing was right," said Barbara.

"The new law also means that libraries can now digitize content for virtual learning environments, and place it in closed networks for use by students, researchers and teachers. This is a fantastic provision that makes distance education possible. Now I am travelling across the country, training librarians so that they understand the new law and how it has expanded access to knowledge," she said.

**IN 2015:** Over 3,300 people were trained in copyright related topics across the EIFL network.



"The new law gives librarians certainty, and the security that what they are doing is now legal."

**- BARBARA SZCZEPANSKA**



# UNIFAH ROSYIDI

## PRESIDENT, INDONESIAN TEACHERS' UNION INDONESIA

The Indonesian Teachers' Union represents three million educators serving over 55 million students. As union president, Unifah Rosyidi is deeply aware of how copyright laws can frustrate teachers' efforts to provide high quality education.

"We need quality and affordable materials for teaching, but we cannot obtain them. We need an exception in copyright law so that teachers and students can use educational material without breaking the law," she said.

In 2018, EIFL supported Unifah's participation in a high-level panel discussion on copyright reform for education at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). She shared her union's work on advancing open educational resources, and urged WIPO to take forward its work on exceptions to facilitate cross-border use of educational materials and reduce the risk of copyright infringement.

To support teachers like Unifah, civil society organizations drafted a Treaty on Copyright Exceptions and Limitations for Educational and Research Activities (TERA). EIFL endorsed TERA in September 2018.

The proposed global treaty aims to reduce inequalities in access to knowledge by providing copyright exceptions that allow for reasonable copying and sharing of materials needed for education and research.

**IN 2018:** EIFL contributed to WIPO discussions on international copyright law reform through 27 interventions and presentations.



"An international treaty on copyright limitations and exceptions for education will make it possible to offer the highest standards of education."

- UNIFAH ROSYIDI

# DASTAN BEKESHEV

## MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT KYRGYZSTAN

Dastan Bekeshev, the first blind person to be elected to parliament in Kyrgyzstan, worked tirelessly for accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Marrakesh Treaty.

The Marrakesh Treaty makes it possible to convert printed works into accessible formats like braille and audio, and to share them across borders. "The Treaty will make a huge difference to blind and visually impaired people in Kyrgyzstan. It will increase our access to knowledge and open opportunities for education and employment," said MP Bekeshev.

EIFL supported a Marrakesh Treaty advocacy campaign in Kyrgyzstan, which drew in many organizations and individuals: the Kyrgyzstan Library Information Consortium, led by Sania Battalova, blind and visually impaired people, policy makers, copyright lawyers and other MPs. "We all stood together. I personally phoned every Government minister asking them to sign the draft law on accession to the Treaty," said MP Bekeshev.

On 15 May 2017, the Government deposited its instrument of accession at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and on 15 August 2017 the Treaty entered into force in Kyrgyzstan. "We did it! We were the first country in central Asia to accede to the Marrakesh Treaty," said MP Bekeshev of this proud moment.

**IN 2017:** EIFL supported ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty in 11 EIFL partner countries.



"Now libraries can produce Braille or audio books without being afraid of infringing copyright laws."

- MP DASTAN BEKESHEV

# PROFESSOR M. MOSHOESHOE-CHADZINGWA

## UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN MASERU, LESOTHO

Professor Matseliso Moshoeshoe-Chadzingwa, University Librarian at the National University of Lesotho and chairperson of the Lesotho Library Consortium (LELICO), has taken

the lead in engaging with policy makers in copyright law reform in Lesotho.

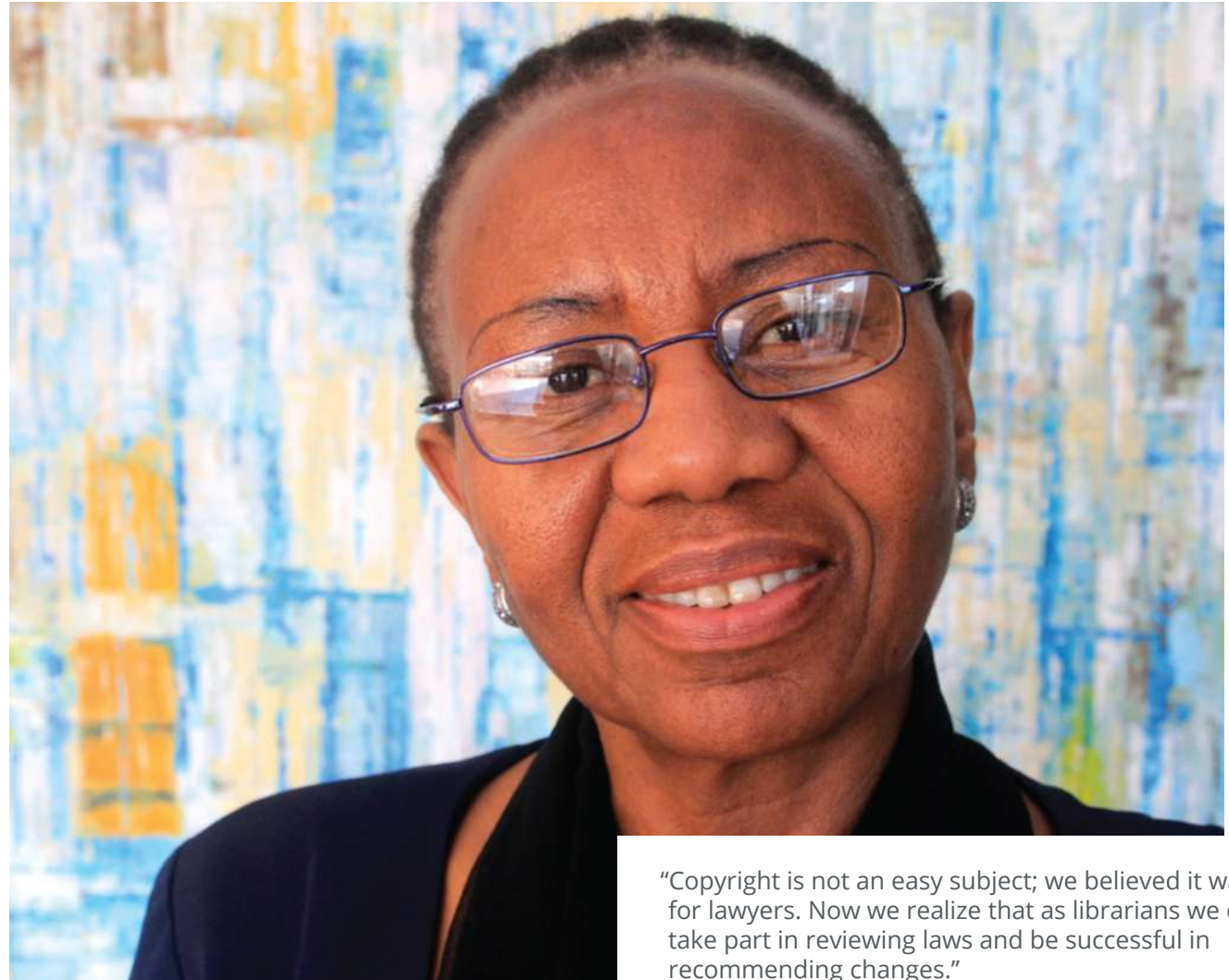
Lesotho's copyright law – the Copyright Order of 1989 – was adopted when the country was still under military rule. "The law was not assessed comprehensively to ensure that it would serve all stakeholders, including libraries," said Prof. Moshoeshoe-Chadzingwa.

In 2016 EIFL undertook a legal review of the Copyright Order of 1989, while LELICO engaged the Lesotho Registrar General's Office and other government ministries in discussion about changing the law.

"The Registrar General's office has set up a committee to follow up on our recommendations which address issues librarians face in supporting education and performing their duties in the 21st century. In light of the Marrakesh Treaty, our recommendations also cover the needs of blind and visually impaired people.

"We now have an action plan and we are looking forward to taking the legal review further in 2017," said Prof. Moshoeshoe-Chadzingwa.

**IN 2016:** EIFL engaged in copyright law reform in seven countries in the EIFL network.



"Copyright is not an easy subject; we believed it was for lawyers. Now we realize that as librarians we can take part in reviewing laws and be successful in recommending changes."

- PROF. M. MOSHOESHOE-CHADZINGWA



# HASMIK GALYSTAN

## LIBRARIAN YEREVAN, ARMENIA

Hasmik Galystan, head of Reference and Circulation Services at Papazian Library, American University of Armenia, has been a librarian for 30 years.

She has also served as the EIFL Copyright Coordinator for the Electronic Library Consortium of Armenia for the past nine years.

Hasmik regularly encounters copyright restrictions that are a barrier to learning. For example, a student recently needed two chapters of a book that was not available in Armenia. Hasmik requested the material through the interlibrary document supply service, but the request was denied because the two chapters exceeded 20% of the book.

With the support of the EIFL Copyright and Libraries Programme, Hasmik has become a passionate advocate for modern copyright laws that support libraries in serving the needs of their user communities. Through active engagement in the review process, she has made vital contributions to Armenia's new draft copyright law.

In December 2014, Hasmik attended the 29th session of the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights - the main body that shapes international copyright laws — for the first time as part of the EIFL delegation. She returned home from Geneva with new energy.

Hasmik plans to continue her advocacy so that the new copyright law, when finally adopted by the National Assembly, does not deny students access to educational materials.

**IN 2014:** 11,490 people trained in copyright related topics across the EIFL network.



"I met many copyright experts in Geneva. I returned home with the knowledge that librarians can make a difference when copyright laws are being amended."

- HASMIK GALYSTAN

## M. TSENGEL

### ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGY EXPERT ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA

Tsengel manages Ulaanbaatar Public Library's accessible publication service, which converts books from print into digital accessible formats for blind and visually impaired people. However, restrictive copyright laws hinder the library's efforts to provide knowledge for Mongolia's 16,500 blind and visually impaired people.

In 2014/15, with support from EIFL, the Mongolian Libraries Consortium, in partnership with the Mongolian Federation of the Blind, led a campaign for ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty. The treaty creates an international legal framework that allows creation of accessible versions of copyrighted works and makes it possible to share them across borders.

On 23 September 2015, Mongolia became the 10th country to ratify the treaty. Once the treaty enters into force globally and its provisions are incorporated in Mongolia's copyright law, libraries can immediately start to provide accessible format copies, and obtain material from other countries.

Tsengel can't wait for that day: "Before we had to cut out parts of the text for copyright reasons. It's very exciting to know that in future we'll be able to produce whole books in accessible formats."

**IN 2015:** EIFL supported Marrakesh Treaty ratification campaigns in four EIFL partner countries.



"The Marrakesh Treaty has opened the doors of learning for blind and visually impaired people in Mongolia."

- M. TSENGEL

## STAY CONNECTED



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