



Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche  
Association of European Research Libraries

## **LIBER ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION STEERING COMMITTEE AND COPYRIGHT WORKING GROUP REPORT**

The Working Group on Copyright was formed by LIBER's Steering Committee on Advocacy and Communication in 2014 to promote awareness of the need for a reformed European copyright regime that takes greater account to the library and research sector. The group consists of legal, library-and regulatory experts representing LIBER Libraries from across Europe.

The Group's first task was to respond to the European Commission's consultation on copyright reform on behalf of the research libraries. In its consultation response, the group among others things advocates for a copyright exception for Text- and Data Mining (TDM), for assurance that copyright exceptions cannot be overridden by contract or by technical protection measures, for the legislator not to make a distinction between non-commercial and commercial use in a content mining copyright exception, that market solutions such as licensing is inadequate to solve the problem of TDM access.

Along with TDM, the WG has made cross-border access to copyright protected works and copyright exceptions for libraries its main priorities in legislative reform.

The Working Group holds regular Skype conferences and meets at least twice annually. The advocacy work also includes meeting with officials of the European Commission and with members of the European Parliament (MEP's).

The WG operates from a Strategy plan that implements LIBER's overall advocacy strategy.

The main focus for LIBER's advocacy activities during 2016 has been the European Commission's initiative for European copyright reform launched in Legislative proposals from the Commission are expected to reach parliament in September 2016.

The WG has held 3 separate meetings with Commission officials from DG Connect, the Directorate General responsible for the copyright reform, throughout the year to discuss legislative proposals.

LIBER organised a "meet the libraries" event hosted by MEP Catherine Stihler and in co-operation with IFLA at the National Library of the Netherlands on 21 March.

In April 2016 the European Commission launched an additional Open Consultation on the role of publishers in the copyright value chain and on a panorama exception. The Copyright Working Group has drafted a response and will take the lead amongst the library organisations on the consultation.

Throughout the year the WG has also developed the co-operation with other library organisations such as EBLIDA, EIFL and IFLA. These organisations have similar legal working groups and have agreed on a coordinated message from the library community on

copyright reform, which is expressed in a common recommendation for communication towards member libraries, Parliament and Commission.

Representatives of the library legal working groups have met for coordination meetings at regular intervals and will continue to do so throughout 2016.

The WG will also organise a copyright workshop or workshop on international copyright issues for libraries with American professor of Law Kenneth Crews for the LIBER 2016 Annual Conference in Helsinki in June.

Under the Committee for Advocacy and Communications, we will start a new working group for Open Access. The Co-Chairs of the Working Group are Matthijs van Otegem and Lluís Anglada. A call for new members of the wg went on line in early May.

<http://libereurope.eu/blog/2016/05/17/liber-open-access-working-group-call-members/#>

If you are interested in joining the Working Group, send an email to [liber@kb.nl](mailto:liber@kb.nl) by 1 June 2016.

The Focus areas for the Working Group will be:

- **Licensing & Negotiations About OA** – How to make the transition from a subscription based model to OA is a shared concern. Because of non-disclosure agreements it can be hard to get insight in the various ways libraries are trying to make the move. The Working Group could be the platform to exchange knowledge and to support library staff in their negotiations.
- **Reap the Rewards of the Repositories** – We all have developed institutional repositories. What's next? How do we reap the rewards of our repositories? How do we increase the coverage of our own academic output? What kind of services can we build on our repositories and how do you do that? We all have attended many presentations about repositories as a project, but far less about the repository as a service.
- **Promote OA Policies** – Moving beyond the 'why' of open access and establishing repositories allows us to take further steps within our institutions. We need clear OA mandates, policies for handling article processing charges, licensing models etc. These can be easily shared and further developed in co-operation among LIBER members.

Wilhelm Widmark  
Chair  
Advocacy and Communications

May 2016