

REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE COPYRIGHT ECOSYSTEM

INFORMATION REQUEST

1. Full name of the entity or individual submitting the response.
Centre for Internet and Society India

2. Contact person with email address and telephone number for questions or clarifications about the submission.

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3. Would you accept having your response made public (e.g. posted on the WIPO website)?
Yes

4. Do you accept having the information contained in your responses mentioned in studies and presentations for the Information Session?
Yes

5. **Brief** description of example, measures or interventions that took place (up to 200 words).

(Explanation: Please briefly explain the situation and why it is of interest for the Information Session.

Examples could include policies put in place or other measures aimed at increasing the resilience of an industry or institution, or to assist the people they serve.)

During the Covid-19 lockdown period, many students and researchers had limited or negligible access to their institute's resources. The increase in respondents' dependence on Sci-Hub for accessing resources indicates the need to depend on open resources/libraries like Sci-Hub.

In a survey, 164 respondents (77.3%) indicated that they highly depend on Sci-Hub for accessing paywalled resources during the Covid-19 lockdown, a 10% increase over the pre-pandemic scenario. The absolute reliance (i.e., rating of 10) on Sci-Hub has also risen during the lockdown period, implying that students have relied more on Sci-Hub during this period. Also, the percentage of respondents using Sci-Hub to directly access a resource has seen a considerable rise of 22.7 per cent, indicating the difficulty in accessing authorised resources.

Separately, in legal interventions submitted to an Indian court, researchers across scientific and social-science disciplines confirmed their dependence on Sci-hub and LibGen during Covid-19 and claimed that accessing research should be treated as a right, rather than an exception.

6. Territory where it took place (continent, country, and city or region).
India

7. Relevant sector or sectors.
Educational and Research, Publishing, Choose an item.

7.1 Additional observation or sector not listed above:
Click or tap here to enter text.

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on the Copyright Ecosystem
Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights

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8. Please provide the key lessons from this example.
During lockdowns, the inability of students and researchers in India to access licensed resources via their institutions led to a growth in the use of unauthorized resources. Restrictions in licences that prevent such access include conditions of campus-only access, or limits on the number of simultaneous users to a particular resource.
9. Please provide links to relevant documents or other sources that could provide further information about this example.
1. [The Sci-Hub Case: Why it is Time to Stop Favouring the Doctrinal Approach to Law over an Empirical One](#)
 2. [Social Science researchers move Delhi High Court to protect LibGen and SciHub:](#)
 3. [More than 2000 scientists, researchers, teachers, and students signed a statement demanding that Sci-hub and LibGen should be allowed to operate in India](#)
10. Please provide any additional comment you might have.
Click or tap here to enter text.

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Please send this form by email to the following address: copyright.mail@wipo.int with the subject: "Information Session".