

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

INTRODUCTION

During the upcoming 42nd Session of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), an Information Session on the Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the Copyright Ecosystem will take place. In order to provide a clear overview of the “impact on the cultural, creative and educational ecosystem, including copyright, related rights, and limitations and exceptions”, the Secretariat kindly invites Member States and Observers to share existing examples of situations that arose and actions that were taken and/or interventions that were made during the Covid-19 pandemic with respect to the industries or institutions that are being considered in the Information Session. We ask you to describe these situations or actions by providing the information requested below. If you are able to give us some elements of your response before March 15, it could help our researchers who are preparing the overview. In addition, all contributions received by the eve of the Information Session will be uploaded (with your permission) onto the WIPO web site.

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

INFORMATION REQUEST

1. Full name of the entity or individual submitting the response.
International Authors Forum
2. Contact person with email address and telephone number for questions or clarifications about the submission.
John Degen, Chair, jdegen@writersunion.ca, +1-416-559-0528
3. Would you accept having your response made public (e.g. posted on the WIPO website)?
 Yes
 No
4. Do you accept having the information contained in your responses mentioned in studies and presentations for the Information Session?
 Yes
 No
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.)
 1. Access Copyright Read Aloud Canadian Books program – our copyright collective partnered with the Association of Canadian Publishers, and with the consent of

Canada's authors, to offer relaxed licensing terms to libraries and school during the initial COVID-19 lockdown, to assist with remote learning.

2. The Writers' Union of Canada joined with international partners to condemn the launch of Open Library's National Emergency Library through the Internet Archive.

6. Territory where it took place (continent, country, and city or region).
 1. Canada 2. International

7. Relevant sector or sectors.
Publishing, Publishing, Choose an item.

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

8. Please provide the key lessons from this example.
 1. Canadian work is in high demand from Canadian educators, and the pressure to provide free or close to free access to those works is persistent. Canada's writers and publishers are generous with their works, and extremely responsive to emergency needs.
 2. Certain online entities will take any opportunity to unilaterally expand their own claims of fair use and fair dealing, even shamefully using a global pandemic as cover for an attack on copyright. The publishing industry's own generous response to access requests during the initial lockdown meant the "National Emergency Library" was responding to a "need" that did not exist.

9. Please provide links to relevant documents or other sources that could provide further information about this example.
 1. <https://www.accesscopyright.ca/read-aloud/>
 2. <https://www.authorsguild.org/KS94C>

10. Please provide any additional comment you might have.
 1. In Canada's decade long dispute over educational copying, we have been told again and again that Canada's educators use less of our work than we suppose. This situation, and our response to it, proved the opposite. Governments must both protect the value of copyright and the rights of creators under that law, and properly fund education so it can negotiate licensed access.
 2. The Internet Archive's unilateral declaration of an emergency need, and its lack of consult with the publishing sector are examples of why there is so much tension on the subject of copyright. Creators and publishers must constantly police misuse of our work, and must defend our right to earn from our labour against outrageous claims about greed and locking up content.

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