

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.
Jamaica Intellectual Property Office
2. Contact person with email address and telephone number for questions or clarifications about the submission.
Lilyclaire.Bellamy@Jipo.gov.jm Shantal.English@jipo.gov.jm
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.)
The Jamaica Intellectual Property Office conducted several webinars to inform the public about the different Intellectual Property Rights. We recognized that it was critical that the creatives

were informed on IP laws since we were unable to conduct face to face sessions. The pandemic saw a rise in many individuals being creative. As the IP Office, we thought it was prudent to ensure that they understand Copyright law. We created short videos and shared on our social media pages to raise awareness and encouraged creatives to employ the necessary safeguards to have evidence that they are the creator of their works.

We had several sessions on Zoom with Primary Schools on General IP. We had request from teachers to speak on Copyright & Related Rights. We also launched an IP Essay Competition during the pandemic which was a success. We are continuing this competition as we recognize the importance of our youth understanding IP and also able to explain IP concepts and to highlight the benefits and importance of IP.

6. Territory where it took place (continent, country, and city or region).
The webinars took place in Jamaica but we also invited members from the Caribbean and WIPO Representatives as guest speakers at some of the webinars.

The Essay Competition was limited to residence of Jamaica

The Zoom Presentations were to Jamaican Primary Schools

7. Relevant sector or sectors.
Audiovisual including cinema, Music, Publishing

7.1 Additional observation or sector not listed above:
Educational Institutions, Film Association, Collective Management Organizations, Book Industry Association, Broadcasting Organizations, Members from the Disabled Communities, Ministry of Education

8. Please provide the key lessons from this example.

In accessing our database, we observed that in 2019, there were 519 works deposited in our Voluntary Copyright Register. In 2020-2021, we had 713 works deposited in our register. The webinars hosted by JIPO provided our participants with knowledge that allowed them to recognise the value of their creations and the importance of safeguarding their works. It provided an opportunity for us to engage in further discussion with the Ministry of Education on the importance of including intellectual property into the school curriculum; and also to have discussions with stakeholders from the music and performing arts industry on the importance of the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances (2012).

We continued our engagement with members of the disabled communities as we are in the process of finalizing amendments to the Copyright Act to incorporate all the provisions from the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

It was evident that the participants benefitted from the webinars as this view was expressed in the survey collected at each webinar.

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The key lesson learnt is that we cannot be complacent because we are experiencing challenges instead we have to employ creative measure to accomplish our targets while ensuring that there is a balance between the owner, the creator and the users of the copyrighted works.

9. Please provide links to relevant documents or other sources that could provide further information about this example.

[Meeting Recording: The Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances \(gomeet.com\)](#)

[Meeting Recording: Intellectual Property for Animators- JANN \(gomeet.com\)](#)

[Meeting Recording: JIPO- CMO Webinar \(gomeet.com\)](#)

[Meeting Recording: Infusing Intellectual Property into the Curriculum -Part 3: "The Primary School Edition" \(gomeet.com\)](#)

[Meeting Recording: Know your Collective Management Organization \(CMO\) - The role of copyright licensing bodies \(gomeet.com\)](#)

[Meeting Recording: Know your Collective Management Organization \(CMO\) - The role of copyright licensing bodies \(gomeet.com\)](#)

[Meeting Recording: Know Your CMO- Licensing bodies role and function in IP \(gomeet.com\)](#)

[Meeting Recording: Infusing IP in the Curriculum \(gomeet.com\)](#)

[Meeting Recording: Copyright concerns - Learning in a virtual environment \(gomeet.com\)](#)

CREATIVE SECTOR REPORT

The Voluntary Copyright and Related Rights Registration Service

With the amendments to the Copyright Act 2015, the Voluntary Copyright Registration Service was introduced to facilitate copyright owners the opportunity to deposit their works in the Copyright Register. Since the amendments, we have seen citizens utilizing this service with the view to have evidence to support their case in the event of an infringement.

In the last month of the financial year 2019–2020 Jamaica recorded its first COVID-19 case. At that time, the concern was that many persons may not utilize the Voluntary Copyright Registration Service. However, we have seen an increase in the use to the deposit system. For the financial year April 2019 to March 2020 a total of five hundred and ninety (**590**) works were deposited.

In the financial year April 2020 to March 2021 a total of seven hundred and thirteen (**713**) works were deposited. We have seen an increase in one hundred and twenty-three (**123**) works deposited in the financial year April 2020 to March 2021 compared to March 2019 to April 2020. During the period April 2020 to March 2021, we saw an increase in the deposit of sound recording, literary, and musical works.

In order to provide a fair assessment of the trends in the 2nd Quarter, a comparison was done for the period July to September 2019, July to September 2020 and July to September 2021.

We deposited two hundred and nine **209** works in July 2019 to September 2019. For the period July 2020 through to September 2020 we deposited two hundred and twenty-six **226** and in this 2nd quarter we deposited one hundred and ninety-eight **198** works.

We saw an increase in the number of works during July 2020-September 2020 in comparison to the previous 2nd quarter. However, we saw a decline in works in July 2021 through to September 2021. Based on the trend in comparing the financial years we expect that we will continue to see an increase in the number of deposits as currently we have deposited five hundred and five (**505**) works for this financial year.

We continue to encourage all creatives to utilize the voluntary copyright registration service.

10. Please provide any additional comment you might have.

During the pandemic, the Jamaican Copyright Licensing Body (JAMCOPY) made special arrangements for the Educational Sector in Jamaica. JAMCOPY extended the licensing limit beyond the limit provided for in the licenses agreement with those educational institutions. This came into effect September 2020 and continues until the end of this academic year.

The temporary expansion of the copyright limit allows for the copying of up to 3 chapters or 30% of the book whichever is the least. This was important as the teaching learning experience was significantly different as the students were experiencing challenge as such this extension was implemented.

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