

WIPO STANDING COMMITTEE ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS

38th Session: Geneva, 1 – 5 April 2019

Mr. Francis Gurry, Director General of WIPO

**Remarks Concerning Libraries and Archives
(Extract from Opening Remarks)**

“There is a very ambitious and comprehensive workplan in the area of L&Es, and a number of those items will be before the committee for further discussion this time. A lot of progress has been made in these areas, but we need to see clearly exactly how we go forward with each of them.

I would encourage you all to think of these items in very broad terms when we consider, for example, libraries and archives and we consider the changing environment in the world for the distribution of knowledge.

The library, of course, has been an institution of extreme importance to humanity for several millennia, and trying to determine how the library will function in the digital framework of the globalized world is an extremely important challenge. And of the course the treaty will not solve all of the multiple dimensions of that question, but it will address certain parts of it.

And likewise archives are extremely important to all of us especially in an age where the integrity of information is often questioned. And one could look at each of the other areas where discussions are taking place with respect to exceptions and limitations and see these are not simply technical issues, but are very broad issues of major importance in determining the framework for the protection of authors and authors rights in the rapidly changing context of the 21st century.”

To view the remarks, go to webcasting for SCCR/38:

<https://www.wipo.int/webcasting/en/index.jsp?event=SCCR%2F38&submit=Select#vod>

Scroll down to ‘Mon 1 Floor Morning Session’. The remarks are at 4:24 – 6:34.