

DICK KAWOOYA

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Dick Kawooya was studying at Makerere University, Uganda, when he was appointed as EIFL Copyright Coordinator for Uganda by the Consortium of Uganda University Libraries (CUUL).

In June 2005, Dick became the first African librarian to take part in copyright negotiations at WIPO (the World Intellectual Property Organization) when he was invited to join EIFL's delegation to the Second Session of the Inter-sessional Intergovernmental Meeting on a Development Agenda of WIPO which took place in Geneva, Switzerland.

"It was probably the most consequential event I ever attended because it was at that meeting that I noted the great need for empirical evidence from Africa to support policy work at public forums like WIPO."

This realization prompted Dick to develop the African Copyright and Access to Knowledge Project, with other partners, which received international funding to enable a research team from eight African countries to examine the extent to which copyright laws in their countries supported access to knowledge.

In the intervening years, Dick's relationship with EIFL led to other opportunities for research, training and engagement with policy-makers. Now Dick is recognized as an international expert on copyright and advises EIFL on copyright reform in Africa.

In 2020: EIFL attended two WIPO meetings and made five interventions in support of copyright laws that maximize access to knowledge.



"African copyright laws are lagging behind and hinder library activities. At that first WIPO meeting it became clear that we needed to do research to make a strong case for policy makers. And that really shaped my career."

– DICK KAWOOYA