Meet the copyright librarians

To mark World Intellectual Property Day 2017, EIFL asked our copyright coordinators in partner countries: how can we ensure copyright will support tomorrow’s innovators and the improvement of lives? This is what they told us.

Copyright laws must walk in line with innovative ways of teaching and learning, and not create barriers for access to knowledge in the digital environment.

Hasmik Galystan, Papazian Library, American University Armenia

Copyright law has at its root an important duty to encourage creativity and learning. This has never changed. We just have to adapt it to current needs.

Barbara Szczepańska, Information Services Manager, Hogan Lovells Warsaw Office, Poland

We will build the trust of creators while helping students to seek knowledge. We will train library users to know their rights and responsibilities, fostering a healthy information environment in Myanmar.

Daw Tin Win Yee, EIFL Elibrary Myanmar Project

Innovation cannot happen in a vacuum; it always builds upon the foundation of existing knowledge. Therefore we have to make sure that the public domain is an integral part of the copyright framework.

Uldis Zarins, National Library of Latvia

Tomorrow’s innovator is today’s student or researcher who needs access to knowledge to learn, share and develop their ideas. Librarians advocate to ensure that copyright supports the whole research cycle.

Jagdish Aryal, Librarian, Social Science Baha, Nepal

Science builds on previous discoveries. Imagine what medical research would be like if data from earlier research was padlocked and monitored only by a single researcher?

Awa Cissé, Librarian, University of Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD), Senegal
Copyright law must keep up with technology, like e-braille and electronic devices that provide access to knowledge for visually impaired people, enabling social participation and making everyday life easier.

Karmen Linask, National Library of Estonia

Librarians are at the forefront ensuring that copyright is an arena for all, whereby innovators are recognized and innovations are fairly used and built upon by others to improve lives.

MM Mosheshoe-Chadzingwa, Librarian, National University of Lesotho

Librarians take the long view. That’s why we advocate for copyright reforms to ensure that new knowledge is freely available to the researchers and innovators of today and tomorrow.

Safia Rafikova, State Library for Patent and Technology of the Kyrgyz Republic

Librarians in Serbia support young researchers and change agents. By advocating for greater fair use and international cooperation, we invest in human knowledge bringing in new progressive ideas.

Dragana Milunovic, National Library of Serbia

Librarians seek to ensure that copyright also supports the interests and aspirations of information consumers – tomorrow’s innovators who need access to copyrighted works to be resourceful.

Japhet Otike, Moi University, School of Information Sciences, Kenya

Copyright exists to serve information needs. We must honour its origins by always seeking ways to grant access to knowledge without discrimination.

Khutsafalo Kadimo, Librarian, Faculty of Medicine, University of Botswana

To innovate, you need knowledge and inspiration. The more widely available knowledge sources, the more people are inspired to create. The copyright system must encourage the widest availability of knowledge.

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