

Archivists' Statement to:
WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights
on SCCR32/32/4
"Draft Study on Copyright Limitations and Exceptions for Educational Activities"

May 11, 2016

The archives community welcomes the presentation of Professor Daniel Seng's monumental draft study on copyright exceptions for educational activities. Its detailed charts on provisions in eight categories of educational uses in various national laws resonates with the purposes to which archives patrons regularly apply the results of their archival research. Because archivists see such users and uses as fulfilling the ultimate purpose of our work in acquisition and preservation, we are pleased to see that many countries provide exceptions to support such downstream life for what we manage.

Despite being part of the same continuum of creation, preservation, accessibility, and use of historical documentary works, we take this occasion to note an important difference between SCCR's work on the education topic and its work on the archives/library topic. In the case of the archives/library topic, what is at question is a more limited and definable cohort of actors and beneficiaries. Before educators and students can utilize archival material, whether for private study or for published research, archives must identify and acquire it, copy it for preservation, sometimes extract it from electronic systems, create index tools for it, and make study copies of it for users world wide. These are carefully defined activities following an organized set of professional practices.

The many discussions of archives and libraries at SCCR over the past 8 years have focused consideration on a set of topics for exceptions and limitations. We believe it important

that the current work to refine eleven topics on archives and libraries needs to proceed expeditiously.

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