

To celebrate World Book and Copyright Day and World IP Day 2014, EIFL asked librarians in EIFL-partner countries what they wish for copyright today. This is what they told us:



Latvia



"I wish that copyright would become leaner, more flexible, more fit to the digital reality, and better serving its original purpose – to protect the rightful interests of authors ... I hope that the current copyright system - a bloated patchwork of provisions built on top of 130 year old ideas - will eventually make way for a more effective and precise set of tools."

- *Uldis Zarins, National Library of Latvia and EIFL-IP coordinator in Latvia*



Uganda



"We wish that the copyright environment in Uganda is reformed so that it works for the benefit of all. For example, access to textbooks is quite a problem. If textbooks supplied under government schemes could also be made available electronically through libraries under Uganda's Creative Commons Licence, the impact on access to learning resources would be significant and immediate."

- *Primah Kwagala, Centre for Health, Human Rights and Development and Florence Lunkuse, Makerere University Business School and EIFL-IP coordinator in Uganda*



Armenia

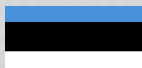


"We need modern copyright laws that support our services, and local copyright officials who work closely with librarians to ensure that our voices are heard. We need copyright laws that do not act as barriers, or that prevent libraries from remaining true to their mission to provide access to knowledge for all."

- *Hasmik Galystan, Papazian Library, American University Armenia and EIFL-IP coordinator in Armenia*



Estonia



"Libraries are bridges between knowledge and people. We need to get a real balance between the rights of creators and users that is compatible with the digital age ... Information should be easily accessible with reasonable and affordable conditions for everyone."

- *Karmen Linask, National Library of Estonia and EIFL-IP coordinator in Estonia*



Nigeria



"In Nigeria, we need to raise awareness among librarians, especially in tertiary institutions, about library rights when it comes to photocopying and other services, so that they are prepared for the regular approaches by overzealous collecting societies."

- *Rilwanu Abdulsalami, University Librarian, Federal University Wukari, Taraba State Nigeria and EIFL-IP coordinator in Nigeria*

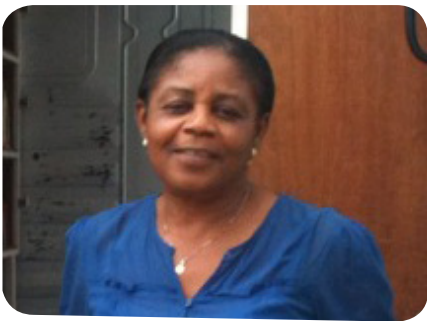


Mongolia



"We wish that blind people in Mongolia can have unlimited access to textbooks and educational materials ... Copyright should not limit blind people's right to education."

- *Baljid Dashdeleg, Open Society Foundation and EIFL-IP coordinator in Mongolia, and M.Tsengel, DAISY Centre at Ulaanbaatar Public Library (UPL)*



Ghana



"I wish all countries would review their copyright laws to keep up with developments in the knowledge age that require people to copy, download, and email documents for teaching, learning and research. And I wish for librarians to do their job lending, converting and preserving documents for their users."

- Valentina Bannerman, EIFL-IP coordinator in Ghana



Kyrgyzstan



"I wish that copyright would support the preservation of our cultural heritage and wide access to printed resources for education, research and innovation through expanded copyright exceptions, and, if necessary, the introduction of new exceptions."

- Safia Kafikova, Library Director, American University of Central Asia and EIFL-IP coordinator in Kyrgyzstan



Botswana



"I wish copyright law could be made such that it enables libraries to provide free and unfettered access to information for all across borders, and in whatever format because access to information is a fundamental human right."

- Kgomotso Radijeng, Botswana National Productivity Centre and EIFL-IP coordinator in Botswana



Senegal



"I dream of the establishment of a set of limitations and exceptions in the copyright law of Sénégal to allow libraries to fully play their role as a "force for change, inspiration, amazement and empowerment," while respecting the rights of authors who are the "creators of emotion."

- Awa Cissé, University of Cheikh Anta Diop Dakar (UCAD) and EIFL-IP coordinator in Sénégal



Kenya



"My wish is that copyright should be sensitive to the needs of information users. Just as much as it safeguards the interests of rights holders and creators, it should ensure that it does not inhibit dissemination of information to the user community by librarians. This is because librarians and rights holders need to work together to support creativity and education."

-Prof. Japhet Otike, Moi university, and EIFL-IP coordinator in Kenya



Russia



"NEICON represents nearly 900 Russian libraries. We do our best to expand exceptions and limitations in copyright law to reach at least the level of EU countries. We expect our government to support the interests of its citizens over big media companies."

- Irina Razumova, Deputy Director of Research, NEICON (Russian library consortium) and EIFL-IP coordinator in Russia

Poland



"I wish that copyright policy and legislation would return to its roots to become again a great tool to encourage creativity and learning. This goal should have equal treatment in terms of importance and a proper legal foundation in the copyright system."

- Barbara Szczepanska, Information Services Manager, Hogan Lovells Warsaw office and EIFL-IP Poland coordinator.



Uzbekistan



"To achieve a copyright system that supports libraries in maximizing access to knowledge, librarians must be smarter in explaining the ideas that underly copyright, and more active in training librarians on how to negotiate fair licence agreements."

- Marat Rakhmatullaev, Tashkent University of Information Technologies, and EIFL country coordinator in Uzbekistan.