

Copyright Committee

In 2017 the Copyright Committee conducted a new national copyright survey to bring up to date the information last received from national branches in 2008. A pleasing level of response was received and fruitful discussions took place with a wide range of national representatives at the Congress in Riga.

It was agreed that, as well as publishing each country's response individually (as had occurred in previous incarnations of the survey) one of the benefits of collecting the data was to present comparisons in particularly pertinent areas such as length of copyright term and exceptions and limitations to copyright. This would assist in terms of promoting a greater understanding of cross-border applicability of exceptions (e.g. in the case of a document supply request from a library in one country to a library in another) and also provide useful documentary evidence for individual countries' lobbying efforts for copyright reform. A particular issue that arose was the fact that in some countries exceptions to copyright specifically precluded printed music.

In April 2018 a follow-up structured pro-forma, limited to the areas identified for comparative treatment, was circulated to all countries who had previously responded. Responses are currently coming in, and, once collated will be discussed at the Committee's open working meeting at the Leipzig Congress.

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Chair, IAML Copyright Committee