IFRRO STATEMENT ON OPEN ACCESS

IFRRO does not support Open Access initiatives if they cause confusion amongst creators, publishers and users and discourage respect for copyright. IFRRO urges all parties to be clear, unequivocal, and transparent in the presentation of the Open Access model and urges rights holders – authors, creators and publishers – to make sure they thoroughly understand their rights, obligations and expected returns before entering into any contractual arrangement. Open Access describes a number of different concepts aiming to make literary and scientific works freely available to be read online, with publishing and any other costs borne by the author. Copyright owners give up some or all rights in their works, in advance and in perpetuity, or for a specified period of time.

IFRRO recognises the right of authors and publishers to choose freely among contract models. It is nonetheless imperative that Open Access models are transparent, understandable and sustainable. Rights holders ought to be fully informed of what rights they are giving up, in order to make a well grounded choice of contract model. Open Access contracts must not be imposed on them. (http://www.ifrro.org/papers/open_access_june_2005.pdf)

EUROPEAN UNION

New head of Copyright Unit
Tilman Lueder has been appointed head of the Copyright and Knowledge-based Economy Unit. He was previously DG Competition and has been acting head of the unit for six months.

LATIN AMERICA

Isadora de Norden has been appointed new Director General of CERLALC (Centro Regional para el Fomento del Libro en America Latina y el Caribe) as from 1 July 2005. (www.cerlalc.orgnuevo_boletin/16/secciones/noticias/noticias.htm)

DIGITAL ISSUES

Access Copyright (Canada), CCC (USA) and COPIBEC (Canada) have signed an agreement that will allow licences of the three RROs to use and distribute content through photocopies and digital reuse worldwide, from either country, using a single multinational licence. (www.copyright.com/ccc/do/viewPage?pageCode=au105)

LEGISLATION

Norway.
On 8 June 2005, the Parliament approved amendments to the Copyright Act to implement the European Union Information Society Directive as well as new legislation which facilitates the collective management of rights. The extended collective licences will now also cover digital copying in the field of education and internal institutional uses. Furthermore, a new extended licence for analogue and digital uses in libraries was adopted. The changes came into force on 1 July 2005.

COPYRIGHT AWARENESS

CFC (France) launches campaign.
Le CFC, in association with press publishers, launched a nationwide press campaign to raise awareness of reproduction rights. This campaign targets businesses which reproduce press cuttings without permission. All national newspapers and a high number of professional and consumer magazines agreed to run the campaign – which started in May and will continue until October – at their own expense.
France. On 20 May, CFC (www.cfcopies.com/V2/) and SEAM signed a three-year licence with the Ministry of Education on reprographic reproduction of books, periodicals, newspapers and sheet music in primary schools and kindergartens. A sample of schools selected each year by the Ministry of Education will report details of works that have been copied within a four-week period to CFC, to establish a basis for the distribution of collected revenues.

Mexico. CeMPro (www.cempro.com.mx/) has concluded a licensing agreement with the Mexican Supreme Court and its 43 nationwide libraries after two years of negotiations. This is a major achievement because of the importance of the licence and also because of the recognition of CeMPro’s work that it entails.

Uruguay. AUTOR, which was approved by the government to start up operations only in February this year, has already signed four licensing agreements with users. Among these are one with a major copyshop and an agreement with the Catholic University of Montevideo.

DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES

DACS (UK) has published its Payback Report 2004 on the distribution of collected revenues, available on (http://www.dacs.org.uk/pdfs/payback_2004_report.pdf). £2.25 million was distributed to visual creators last year.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

Members establish common database. Copibec, ProLitteris, Sacd-Scam Belgique and CFC have signed an agreement to exchange data on French-language printed works. The societies, which mainly administer francophone works, agreed to share information on their respective national repertoires, to enhance the identification of foreign works and their related rights holders, and to reduce related costs. Each society has developed databases featuring bibliographic information on works, creators and publishers enabling them to distribute royalties collected from reprographic reproduction. Each society will be able to access other societies’ information via a virtual database and will be allowed to incorporate the shared data in their own systems.

Norway.

In conjunction with its 25th anniversary, Kopinor recognised the outstanding work for copyright and RROs of Servan Chavula, DG of COSOMA (http://www.cosoma.org/) and Tarja Koskinen-Olsson, IFRRO’s Honorary President, through an award to each of NOK 75,000 (€ 9,500), (http://www.kopinor.org/jva_er_kopinor/nyheter/kopinors_jubileums_pris_til_servan_chavula_og_tarja_koskinen_olsson)

WIPO SMEs.

A training programme on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and the management of innovation for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) held in Geneva on 11-13 May offered SMEs information on the importance of IPRs to their businesses and competitiveness and provided practical tools on how to manage them. CEDRO Technical Director Victorianno Colodron’s contribution is available on www.wipo.int/meetings/2005/wipo_insme/en/presentation/ppt/wipo_insme_ge_05_colodron.ppt.

FROM THE BOARD

We welcome EVA (European Visual Artists, www.europeanvisualartists.org/) as a new Associate Member of IFRRO.

François Leduc (SEAM) has been appointed the new chair of the Working Group on the reprographic licensing of musical works.

At its June meeting, the Board approved that IFRRO to UNESCO for status as an NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation). The Board also foresees that IFRRO should become a strategic partner of the UNESCO Global Alliance Programme.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 2, 5, 6 PRRO seminar and workshops on RROs, Manila
Sept. 14-16 Regional Consultation on Collective Administration of Reprographic Reproduction Rights in the Caribbean, Ocho Rios
Oct. 27 IFRRO AGM, Madrid