

Swedish File-Sharing Case Against The Pirate Bay

The judgment on the Swedish Pirate Bay case, a file sharing network, will be announced on 17 April at 11.00 am CET. The crux of the case centered around the issue of whether or not The Pirate Bay itself is infringing copyright. As no copyrighted files are actually stored on The Pirate Bay's computers, the four site owners argued that only those who download and upload material could be convicted, and that they could not be made responsible for not removing copyright-protected material. The prosecutor, on the other hand, claimed that the site owners facilitated other people's breach of copyright law. In total, 34 cases of copyright infringements are listed, of which 21 are related to music files, 9 to movies and 4 to games.

Update on the Google Book Search Settlement

Nearly all RROs in membership of IFRRO and many of IFRRO's associate members, namely 58 members in 47 countries, are currently participating in the Google Book Search Settlement Notification Program offered by Kinsella Media, LLC. In addition, rightholders in Norway and the Netherlands are being notified through authors and publishers associations. A deadline of major importance, 5 May 2009, is approaching: (1) Rightholders may opt-out of the Settlement before this deadline, and (2) any Notice of Intent to appear at the Hearing must be filed with the US Court on or before 5 May 2009.

EC publishes Green Paper comments

The European Commission (EC) has just published the comments it received on the Green Paper "Copyright in the Knowledge Economy. The [Commission site](#) lists over 350 replies from a wide range of organisations including [IFRRO](#) and several of its members.

Digital Library in Norway

The Norwegian National Library has started to digitise its entire collection. Through a preliminary project called *Bokhylla.no* ('Bookshelf'), the library will make all Norwegian books from the 1790s, 1890s and 1990s available via the Internet to Norwegian IP-addresses. Representatives from the Ministry of Culture, the National Library and Kopinor have made recommendations on the principles for licensing of the copyright protected

material and for the payment of remunerations. The licensing agreements will be supported by the Extended Collective License. Copyright protected books will not be prepared for print or download. Kopinor and the National Library started negotiations in March. If an agreement is reached, the project will be launched before summer.

Latin American countries' policy on libraries

CERLALC and Aecid organised a Forum on readership and libraries in Santiago (Chile) on 4-8 November, attended by more than 100 participants from Latin America, Spain and Portugal. It called on governments to give priority to the preservation and development of culture and to promote reading and access to information and culture – both prerequisites to exercise citizenship – in a way that respects national and international copyright legislation. Education, schools and a readership culture should be strengthened and rightholders were called upon to facilitate access to copyright works through individual and collective licensing. The IFRRO CEO, Olav Stokkmo, presented some of the solutions that had been developed in Europe.

Argentinian RRO agreements

CADRA and UNTREF (National University of Third of February) celebrated a new agreement concerning reprographic reproduction of copyrighted material. It covers graduate, postgraduate as well as the on-line learning areas of the university. CADRA, also signed a new agreement with SADE and SEA, the two Argentinian authors' organisations. The signing of this agreement will mean that the three organisations will work together to protect authors rights against piracy and illegal photocopying by doing the necessary actions.

WTO ruling on US/China IPR dispute

The World Trade Organization (WTO) formally ruled that several aspects of China's legal regime for protecting and enforcing intellectual property rights are inconsistent with China's obligations under the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement). The United States brought this dispute against China because of concerns that Chinese law does not adequately provide for the protection and enforcement of copyrights and trademarks on a wide range of products

High Level Expert Group on Digital Libraries

The Directorate-General 'Information Society and Media' has set up a High Level Expert Group on Digital Libraries by a Commission Decision of 25 March 2009. This group follows on from the original High Level Expert Group, the mandate of which expired at the end of 2008, and allows it to continue at least for 2009. The purpose of the group is to advise the Commission on how to best address the organisational, legal and technical challenges at European level and to contribute to a shared strategic vision for European digital libraries. The Group will be composed of a maximum of 20 members coming from Memory organisations (libraries, archives, museums), Authors, publishers and content providers, ICT industry (e.g. search engines, technology providers) and Scientific and research organisations and academia. Also the copyright Expert Group in which IFRRO and IFRRO members ENPA, EWC and FEP are members, has been reconvened for a first meeting on 16 April. IFRRO is represented on the copyright group by its CEO (Olav Stokkmo) and its Honorary President (Tarja Koskinen-Olsson).

Promotion of Authors' Rights - Ibero-America

On the 5 of February Mónica Torres, Assistant director of Authors' Rights of CERALALC and Francisco Galindo Villora, Secretary General of the Authors' Foundation Author, an organization linked to the General Society of Authors and Publishers of Spain (SGAE), jointly addressed the Latin American Observatory of Authors' Rights (ODAI). ODAI, promotes and monitors rights for authors coming from Latin America, Spain and Portugal. It provides statistics on the impact of authors' rights on the economy of the countries of the region, analyzes the challenge presented by the digital environment, emphasizes the importance of collective management societies and contributes to the formulation of public policies in favour of intellectual property.

VAT may be cut on ebooks

EU Finance Ministers agreed on 11 March to allow member states to reduce the VAT rate to 5% on "Books on all physical means of support". This clearly covers audio books and may also be applied to mp3 books and ebooks that are made available on a physical medium.

IFRRO sets up Business Model Task Force

IFRRO aims to help Authors and Publishers provide paid access to their works in the digital

arena, through its latest initiative to establish a Business Model Task Force. A meeting of IFRRO members in March compared existing digital licensing schemes and agreed to set up a Task Force to prepare for an IFRRO Business Models Forum.

Amendment to Hungarian Copyright Legislation affects Reprography

Changes to the Hungarian Copyright act, which came into force in February have implications for reprography. Although the two percent cap on equipment levy was not removed from the law, the scope of rightsholders entitled to reprographic remuneration has been extended to include newspaper publishers in addition to journalists. While the legal monopoly of the Hungarian CMOs has not been altered, more rigorous regulations were introduced for defining and endorsing the annual tariff schemes. Finally a new organization will be set up to distribute public lending right fee, a compensation to be paid by the Government after 2010. The Hungarian Patent Office was appointed for the administration of orphan works starting in 2009. HARR had not been asked to take over the above tasks.

The Vietnam Literary Copyright Center, new IFRRO member

The Vietnam Literary Copyright Center has recently become an associated member of IFRRO. Authorized by the Copyright Office of Vietnam in 2004, the Vietnam Literary Copyright Center is a non-profit organisation established by authors and copyright owners in literary, artistic and scientific fields to encourage creativity and manage literary copyright as stipulated by law.

Former Congressman Tom Allen to Head Association of American Publishers

The AAP Board of Directors has chosen Tom Allen, a former six-term Congressman from Maine, to succeed Pat Schroeder, who has served as President and CEO of the Association of American Publishers since June 1997 and will be leaving AAP on May 1, 2009. The announcement was made in a [press release](#).

EVENTS Preview of 2009

26 May 2009, Conference Digital access to cultural heritage, Prague, Czech Republic.

4 June 2009, Digital Issues Forum, Madrid, Spain

9-10 June 2009, World Copyright summit, Washington DC, USA.

19-23 October 2009, IFRRO Annual General Meeting, Oslo/Norway.