IFRRO HELPS TO STRENGTHEN COPYRIGHT IN NAMIBIA
On 18-21 September, UNESCO co-organised a training course in copyright enforcement with IFRRO, IPA (www.ipa-uei.org), IFPI, BSA, the Southern African Federation Against Theft (SAFACT) and the Recording Industry of South Africa (RISA). The Windhoek event attracted lawyers, judges, customs and police officers from 10 Southern African countries.


Carlo Lavizzari (DALRO and STM) spoke on overarching remedies to fight piracy, whereas Patricia Judd (AAP) and Simon Bell (PA, UK) lectured on book piracy and how to curb it. In accordance with the IFRRO Board statement on the issue, IFRRO Secretary General, Olav Stokkmo, indicated how collective management organisations, such as RROs, are a prerequisite to successfully combating unauthorised reproduction and use of copyright works (for more details, see http://www.ifrro.org/show.aspx?pageid=library/positionpapers/piracy&culture=en)

Cedro Targets Students With Copyright Awareness Initiative
On 21 September, Cedro (Centro Español de Derechos Reprográficos), the Spanish RRO, launched an educational programme to encourage reading and books as a way of accessing information and knowledge. Entitled "Es de libro" and supported by the Spanish Ministries of Education and Science and Culture, it aims to engender respect for authorship and copyright among 12-18 year old students in secondary level education. Es de libro has developed a comprehensive practical guide with advice on how to write original essays - including acknowledging sources of information - with accompanying teachers’ guidelines.

The project has attracted substantial interest, with over 100 requests from educationalists for further information, and coverage from national and local press, radio and television and digital media. Cedro is now forwarding project materials to local education authorities and other parties involved in the education such as teacher, parent and publisher associations. Early next month, a national essay contest will be launched, giving students the opportunity to put essay-writing into practice. For details visit: http://esdelibro.es (also in English).

EU News - i2010 Digital Libraries Initiative
The Copyright Subgroup of the High Level Expert Group (HLG) for the EC i2010 Digital Libraries delivered its interim report to the HLG on 17 October. It proposes practical solutions for digital preservations and orphan and out-of-print works. As a next step, the Copyright Subgroup has been asked to examine how the solutions could be implemented. Focus will be on guidelines for diligence search in respect of orphan works and principles for a model licence on digitisation and making available of out-of-print works, to be developed jointly by the rights holders, with collective management organisations as their representatives, and the libraries and archives.
Anne Bergman-Tahon (FEP), Toby Bainton (Chair EBLIDA), Tarja Koskinen-Olsson (IFRRO) and Olav Stokkmo will chair the working groups.

"Content Online in Europe’s Single Market": IFRRO Submission to Commission’s Public Consultation

IFRRO has sent the European Commission a comprehensive document clearly indicating the continued importance of copyright and the role of Reproduction Rights Organisations (RROs) in supporting rights clearance in the online environment. IFRRO's submission also states how RROs play a significant role in providing end users with the widest possible opportunities for legal access to the works of rightsholders (publishers, authors and visual creators), and how RROs are key players in furthering cultural diversity. In addressing the Commission’s questionnaire, IFRRO also covered areas such as unauthorised use, legal and regulatory barriers to the development of creative online content and services, and payment and pricing systems.

Legislation - Czech Republic

A Ministry of Culture Ordinance on levies comes into force in November. Unlike previous regulations in this area, it clearly sets out which devices attract the levies, including photocopiers, printers, multifunctional devices and PCs, but excluding simple faxes and scanners. The Ordinance also stipulates the size of levy according to type of device.

Joint Agreement on Guidelines for Digital Course Materials

AAP (Association of American Publishers) and Cornell University have signed an agreement on copyright guidelines to govern digital course materials. The guidelines affirm that the use of electronic content is governed by the same legal principles that apply to printed materials (http://www.publishers.org/press/releases.cfm?PressReleaseArticleID=350). AAP is also in the process of negotiating similar guidelines with other US universities.

ALCS Distributes €7 Million To Authors

IFRRO’s UK member, the Authors’ Licensing and Collecting Society (www.alcs.co.uk) has announced a distribution of £5 million (£7.3 million) to 18,000 UK writers for secondary use, including photocopying of their works. The average payment was £219.50 (£320) with the highest and lowest single payments £36,000 (£52,000) and £10 (£15) respectively. The most photocopied works were an English Grammar and academic books.

Automated Content Access Protocol (ACAP) Unveiled

IPA, the World Association of Newspapers and the European Publishers Council presented ACAP at the Frankfurt Book Fair last month. This new open standard will enable internet content providers to express rights and permission policies for the content on their websites in an automated way understood by search engine crawlers. A pilot coordinated by Rightscom will run from November 2006. For more details visit: http://www.wan-press.org/

News In brief

Namibia. NAMRRO was officially approved by the Namibian government at the opening of the UNESCO anti piracy training seminar in Windhoek on 18 September.

Peru and Costa Rica Concrete business plans for starting local RRO operations in these countries by mid-2007 were realised at IFRRO workshops last month. Instrumental in organising the events was Monica Torres of CERLALC and IFRRO’s Regional Development Representative. Also attending the events were Maria Fernanda Mendoza (CEMPRO) and IFRRO Deputy Secretary General, Franziska Schulze.

Columbia CEDER has produced a statistical study indicating that Colombian University students spend an average of USD 2,300 per annum on photocopies of copyright protected material - and purchase two books a year. Almost half the students copy whole books. Subject areas most affected are business studies, engineering, mathematics, medical studies and sciences, as well as law.

Uruguay adopted the WIPO Copyright Treaty into national law on 11 October 2006.

EVENTS

Nov 2: IFRRO AGM, Auckland, New Zealand (www.ifrro2006auckland.derrail.co.nz)

Nov 3: Joint Copyright Licensing Ltd/IFRRO Copyright Conference, Auckland. To be attended by Hon. Judith Tizard, New Zealand’s Associate Minister of Commerce (www.ifrro2006auckland.derrail.co.nz/agm.php?view=se minar)

Nov 29 WIPO-IFRRO National Copyright Conference, Port of Spain