

IFRRO DIGITAL ISSUES FORUM

The Digital Issues Forum (DIF) chaired by *Bruce Funkhouser* (CCC) was formed as a part of the new structure to address the digital arena. Open to all members, DIF is the main IFRRO meeting for the exchange of ideas and views on digital issues. The first DIF this year took place in Berlin on 30 May, and the next will be in Auckland (New Zealand) on 1 November, in conjunction with the IFRRO AGM.



IFRRO Digital Issues Forum, 30 May. Photo O. Stokkmo

The Berlin DIF discussed, *inter alia*, the recommended Key Principles for RRO-owned databases for international document delivery; a document on business and technical requirements for the exchange of data/messages between RROs and between RROs and rightsholders, commissioned from *Brian Green* (EDI tEUR); digital mandates from rights holders to RROs; and a SWOT analysis on RROs in the digital environment made by Rightscom Ltd. *Peter Shepherd*, the IFRRO President, reiterated the need for rights holders, their associations and RROs to jointly develop a vision of how to address key issues in the digital arena. The SWOT analysis shows that RROs' strengths and opportunities include broad representation and networks, and presence with licensing arrangements (often perceived as a part of a solution rather than a problem) in key market segments. Threats and weaknesses are linked to insufficiency in exchangeable mandates to deal with digital issues.

COPYRIGHT. MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO DANISH ECONOMY

A study based on the WIPO model commissioned by COPY-DAN, KODA and Gramex, published in April, shows that core copyright industries create 5% of the total turnover of the Danish economy, and contribute 7% of the valued added to it. Copyright-dependent industries represent an additional 4% of the turnover and 2.5% of the valued added. The report, which is available on www.copydan.dk/kvu, includes an English summary

EU "COPYRIGHT LEVY REFORM"

A working paper (http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/copyright/levy_reform/index_en.htm) was published on 7 June for on-line consultation among stakeholders. It does not offer information on the Commission's view of the development of levy systems, but invites stakeholders to submit their opinions on specific issues by 14 July.

COPYRIGHT LEVY REFORM ALLIANCE (CLRA)

Six associations including BSA have formed an alliance "to improve fairness and transparency in the collection of copyright levies" (www.bsa.org/eupolicy/press/newsreleases/eupressrelease05april2006.cfm) Several studies on the impact of levies available from <http://www.bsa.org/eupolicy/> have been commissioned. Whereas some of the figures reported are correct, IFRRO members have commented that others are either pure speculation or mean that the industry is holding back information that legislation obliges them to provide, and which would increase the lawful yearly collection of reprographic levies by up to 600%.

IFRRO MANUAL ON HOW TO ESTABLISH AN RRO



A new IFRRO Manual on How to Establish an RRO was launched at a meeting in Berlin on 31 May.

It has been developed by a task force chaired by IFRRO's Honorary President *Tarja Koskinen-Olsson* and otherwise made up of *Caroline Morgan* (CAL), *Hans-Petter Fuglerud* (Kopinor), *Judy Mark* (AccessCopyright), *Victoriano Colodrón* (CEDRO and *Franziska Schulze* (IFRRO Secretariat). *Sebastian Bloj* (CADRA), *Paul Wee* (CLASS), *Greenfield Chilongo* (Zimcopy), Dr. *Mecheline Manalastas* (PRRO, Philippines), *Hubert Mono N'Djana* (SOCILADRA, Cameroon) and *Samu Kuto* (SAZOR, Slovenia) formed a reference group to ensure that the Manual meets the needs of those who will be actively involved in setting up RROs.

The Manual is a practical tool which addresses issues relevant to the establishment of an RRO, including examples of RRO statutes and licenses and a template business plan. It will be a dynamic tool to be updated regularly, and will be made available to the members and others on the IFRRO website.

IFRRO'S DEVELOPMENT WORK

Assistance to emerging RROs is, to a large extent, carried out through a mentoring programme to which consistency is very important. The development work will be further enhanced through new tools under development, such as a guide on how to mentor an RRO, and revised business plans for the regions.

There are also structural changes. Regional Representatives have been engaged to provide hands-on assistance to emerging RROs, partly through using some of the resources of RRO members. The IFRRO Regional Representatives are *Greenfield Chilongo* (Africa), *Paul Wee* (Asia), *Monica Torres Cadena/CERLALC* (Latin America) and *Raymonde Kilpatrick* (Europe). They represent experience and expertise in RRO work and/or pertinent legislative and organisational matters. We expect that the new tools and changes will help boost IFRRO's development work.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT ARIPO - IFRRO

On 1 June, the IFRRO Board approved the cooperation agreement with the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), the intergovernmental organisation that links 16 Sub-Saharan English-speaking countries. The agreement will facilitate cooperation in all relevant fields of activity, including legislative frameworks, governance structures and the training of RRO personnel and others in matters related to Intellectual Property and the Collective Management of Rights.

WELCOME TO CAPTAIN COPYRIGHT!

A web page with cartoons, games, stickers and lessons to teach children about copyright has been launched in Canada, and is available on <http://www.captaincopyright.ca/Default.aspx>. In a short time it has become popular among Canadian children. It could be used in education, especially in the teaching of English as a foreign or second language.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

China. New regulations that ban unauthorised uploading and downloading of Internet material come into effect on 1 July. Fines for breaching the regulations will amount to 100,000 yuan (EUR 10,000) (http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2006-05/29/content_4617592.htm)

Mexico. On 27 April, the House of Representatives passed a proposal by CeMPro <http://www.cempro.com.mx/> to exclude reproductions made in commercial enterprises such as copyshops from the exceptions under Article 148 of the Copyright Act. The bill which is now in the Senate for approval will strengthen the work of CeMPro.

USA. The Government has proposed a solution to deal with orphan works that under specific conditions would entitle rights holders to some form of compensation (<http://www.copyright.gov/orphan/orphan-report-full.pdf>).

Although many rights-holder groups support the solution, the illustrators' organisations have opposed it, claiming that it will not lead to adequate business solutions for visual material. ASMP has called for visual artists to come together with one voice to create new tools and solutions (www.asmp.org/news/press/20060425_orphan.php).

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome **IPRO** (International Publishers rights Organisation) and **SOFIA** (Société Française des Intérêts des Auteurs), the organisation that administers Public Lending Rights (PLR) in France, as new Associate Members of IFRRO.

EVENTS

26-30 June **WIPO 2nd PCDA** (Development Agenda) meeting, Geneva

13-14 July **creativity.online.fi – European Content and Copyright Policy** EU Finnish Presidency Copyright Conference, Helsinki www.minedu.fi/eupresidency/eng/calendar/13_1407/index.html

2 November **IFRRO AGM 2006**, Auckland www.ifrro2006auckland.derail.co.nz/agm.php