



AUTHORS
ALLIANCE

authorsalliance.org
510.480.8302

2705 Webster St. #5805
Berkeley, CA 94705

The following statement was presented by Authors Alliance Executive Director Brianna Schofield at the Thirty-Ninth Session of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR/39) in Geneva, Switzerland, on October 21, 2019. Authors Alliance, together with other international observers, was invited to provide brief comments on agenda items related to limitations and exceptions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am speaking on behalf of Authors Alliance. Our mission is to advance the interests of authors who want to serve the public good by sharing their creations broadly.

Authors benefit from limitations and exceptions throughout their creative process and long thereafter. Limitations and exceptions for libraries, archives, and museums promote the long-term interests of authors, ensuring that their creative and intellectual legacies live on through the preservation and access efforts of these cultural stewards. These efforts also enhance the discoverability of authors' works, improving the chances that these works will reach the audiences for which they were intended.

Educational limitations and exceptions to copyright likewise benefit authors. First, limitations and exceptions for educational purposes can help authors reach wider audiences. Limitations and exceptions facilitate engagement with works that users would otherwise forego due to the cost, difficulty, or even impossibility of licensing, allowing authors to reach new readers without interfering with the normal market for their works. Second, educational limitations and exceptions help authors build reputational capital because the uses they enable, such as the use of excerpts from a work in a classroom, signal that the author has made significant contributions to their field. These benefits are especially pronounced for academic authors, whose scholarly reputations are enhanced when their works are assigned as classroom reading. Third, educational limitations and exceptions can also reinforce academic authors' incentives to create. They amplify authors' abilities to contribute to the advancement of knowledge by allowing readers to more readily discover, make use of, and build on their works. These benefits are particularly motivating to academic authors, who often create works in order to share their knowledge, insights, and ideas with a new generation of learners.

Limitations and exceptions are essential to a vibrant creative ecosystem, and we commend the Committee for its continued work on this topic.

Thank you.