



Country report Ghana

Annual report to the IFLA CLM committee

Singapore 2013

This report is a short account of the activities of Ghana. It is an update of the report submitted in 2012.

<http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/clm/country-reports/2012/ghana-2012.pdf>

Copyright

In Ghana, the focus on copyright is skewed towards enforcement. The reason is the influx of local and foreign pirated works on the streets and market has made it urgent to involve all stakeholders in training programmes. The death of Chinua Achebe for instance resulted in his book *Things Fall Apart* being reprinted without permission of the publisher. A one day workshop was organised in June 2013 by the Ghana Association of Phonographic Industry and the Copyright Office with funding from Business Development Service Fund (BDSF). It was organised for the police service, the Customs, Excise and Preventive Service (CEPS) and other law enforcement agencies. The goal was to enable them play their respective roles under the Copyright Act and Legislative Instrument. This is the kind of enforcement required in the implementation of the Trade Related aspect of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

Advocacy/Lobbying activities

The Ghana Library Association and the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Ghana were signatory to the appeal to the World Trade Organisation to accede to the request by the Least Developing Countries (LDC) Group for exemption without pre condition from the obligations of TRIPS. This is in the interest of access to knowledge, libraries and development.

Also signed was the joint statement for Visually Impaired Persons (VIP) Treaty urging the WIPO Diplomatic Conference in Marrakech, Morocco to agree on an effective treaty that

would facilitate access to published works by visually impaired persons and persons with print disabilities

Pending legislative issues

An Intellectual Property (IP) policy is being developed by the Office of Research, Innovation and Development (ORID) of the University of Ghana (UG) to provide the needed incentives and security for innovative research at the university.

Licensing issues

The organisation mandated by the Ghana Copyright Act to deal with licensing issues is CopyGhana. According to the Executive Secretary of CopyGhana Mr. Ben K. Nyadzi, CopyGhana, was formally established in 2000. It was set up as a result of massive photocopying of literary works by students in educational institutions in the country. The initial focus of licensing was the polytechnics and public universities. However, in 2005, CopyGhana expanded its reach to cover the private tertiary institutions. Colleges of education, senior high schools, churches, government offices and private companies that engage in mass photocopying were to be considered later. So far it has succeeded in getting 4 private universities to sign licensing agreements. Most institutions have not agreed to sign and the strategy of public education, dialogue and negotiations with student leaders and the authorities of user institutions changed to threats of court action when institutions continued to digitise and photocopy copyright protected works in their libraries. This year, CopyGhana decided to reach out to the National Council on Tertiary Education with the hope the body would charge all tertiary institutions to oblige and sign the License Agreement and pay fees in line with the Copyright Act 2005, Act 690 and Copy Regulations 2010 Legislative Instrument (L.I) 1962.

A Guide from EIFL on *How to negotiate with your Reproduction Rights Organisation* was forwarded for circulation to all librarians in Ghana to start to discussions with CopyGhana.

Legal Matters

New legislation

No new legislation

Strategic plans for the future

The strategy is to respond to calls for proposals by eIFL and INASP and other organisations for the purpose of training librarians and library patrons. The idea would be to update them on copyright issues to facilitate access to information.

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August 2013