



International Federation of  
Library Associations and Institutions

1<sup>st</sup> of July 2021

## **IFLA Statement on Other Matters**

### **41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights.**

Thank you, Mr Chair. The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions notes that item 8 contains a significant program including the long-standing work on copyright in the digital environment, the rights of theatre directors and a proposal for work on Public Lending Right.

Given the nature of the agenda currently, we believe that a focus on public lending right is not a priority, given that this is not a question for international copyright law, but rather a cultural policy.

Furthermore, while IFLA has always been a strong supporter of fair remuneration of authors and creators, we note that the proposal as it stands is marked by a number of inaccuracies, and a failure to consider the costs and drawbacks of public lending right alongside its potential benefits.

With tight fiscal times likely in future, including of course in developing countries, it is clear that any money to pay for PLR will need to come from budgets which would otherwise be used to promote reading and literacy, access to information and knowledge, the fight against misinformation, and access to research, or of course to provide more targeted support for culture. It risks therefore limiting the capacities of children, teenagers and adults and their educational and professional perspectives.

Therefore, we consider that a credible effort to consider how better to support authors would involve a wider, more holistic, examination of the cost effectiveness of all potential tools available to governments, including direct support, stronger rights when (re)negotiating contracts, reversion rights, tax support and beyond.

Thank you.