

Agenda item 6 Limitations and Exceptions for Libraries and Archives: IFLA Statement

30 May 2018

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I speak on behalf of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, with members in more than 150 countries represented at SCCR.

Many of us have been coming to SCCR for more than a decade, when exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives were first brought onto the SCCR agenda by representatives of GRULAC and the Africa Group. So, in that context, we thank the Chair for presenting an action plan on these issues, signaling a mutual desire for substantive progress.

We are especially pleased with the plan's proposal for regional meetings, as we think voices from the field will make even more real and specific the major challenges faced by librarians and archivists in a world where information is borderless. So we are eager to work with the chair, secretariat and Member States to identify agendas, sites and participants for these meetings as soon as possible. While the draft action plan calls for "up to 2" regional meetings, we know that more will ultimately be needed to ensure that needs from all regions of the world are addressed.

We do have several suggestions for improvement of the plans, two specifically designed to accelerate action:

- (1) Design the regional meetings to serve as the brainstorming sessions, which are currently proposed as separate events in the draft action plan; and
- (2) Even more critical, treat libraries, archives and museums in a holistic manner, not as separate sectors. While libraries, archives, and museums in the past may have been quite different, they are experiencing the same convergence as we see in other sectors. This convergence drives our view that they have common functionalities that need to be permitted in a common legal framework. Museums have libraries and archives; archives have libraries and museum-like artifactual collections; and libraries house archives and also have artifactual collections. Convergence is so complete that there is an acronym often used to describe us: LAM's. In this context, the separate treatment proposed in the draft action plan, including a separate "scoping study" for archives, seem duplicative, retrograde, and ill-advised. Instead, we believe that the most productive approach is for SCCR to focus on the core issues it has been addressing for several years - as reflected in summary form in SCCR 34/5 (the "chair's chart") - as the "typology" or taxonomy; one that is based on common activities or uses, not on an artificial separation of the LAM sectors. In this regard, we appreciate the Chair's clarification on this point in his introduction of this agenda item.

One final suggestion is that a brief chapeau be added to the action plans, clarifying how actions proposed in the plan will be shared with and guided by SCCR's Member States.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.