

Statement at World Intellectual Property Organization meeting of Provisional Committee on the Development Agenda

February 20, 2007

The Library Copyright Alliance is a coalition of the five major US library associations: American Association of Law Libraries, American Library Association, Association of Research Libraries, Medical Library Association, and the Special Libraries Association.

The Library Copyright Alliance wishes to make four points that relate directly to how this body can refine and implement the proposals under consideration for facilitating a development agenda.

Libraries are founded on the balance of promoting both the rights of creators and the needs of users who require access to information. [Proposals 19, 20, 21 and 40]

Another of our core principles is that a robust and growing public domain provides new opportunities for creativity, research and scholarship. [Proposals 17 and 32]

Effective library programs and services are a critical means of advancing knowledge and bringing individuals into the “knowledge economy.” [Proposal 10]

These three points lead to the last: Libraries and educational institutions can and should be a vital part of the strategies of WIPO and its Member States in promoting intellectual property law. [Proposals 6 & 7] We appreciate the opportunity to participate in your deliberations [Proposal 38], but we can do far more than that to make an economic, social and cultural impact.

We are encouraged by the commitment that Member States have expressed so eloquently, and hope that you will make real progress this week and also in June with the Annex B proposals.

Please take a copy of our Library-related Principles on the table outside of the room.