Campaigning for copyright reform in the EU: from formal response to EU Public Consultation to the Right to e-read Campaign

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Abstract:

Unrestricted access to information at a time and at a place individually chosen is the possibility the Internet potentially offers to individuals that have the chance to benefit from high speed broadband connexion in Europe and worldwide. Within the European Union with its patchwork of 28 member-States legislations roofed under general directives, legislation is far slower to adapt to changes than citizens. Though a lot is happening within the European Union on the copyright field with a mix of soft law and hard law initiatives, librarians noticed the development of legal uncertainty while users have difficulty understanding why they cannot access to certain type of content. In this environment, EBLIDA takes an active participation and raise the voice of libraries whenever possible in structured dialogues (MoU on Out of Commerce Work, Licences for Europe) and by answering to Public consultations. But none of them have proved to be successful from EBLIDA's perspective so far. For this reason, EBLIDA is actively campaigning for the Right to e-read, creating buzz on the necessary copyright reform to keep pace with technologies and ensure strong users rights for citizens in libraries.