



The case for copyright and licensing

In recent years we have seen growing pressure on governments and at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to devalue copyright and the mechanisms by which authors are remunerated for their work. This has been suggested on the basis that authors will somehow be rewarded despite not getting paid for their work, or simply because this is an easy way to cut costs. Free access to the work of authors has been prioritised with no consideration for the wider long-term consequences of not compensating the author. IAF makes the case for copyright and licensing on the basis of these principles:

Fairness

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights ensures that everyone can participate in culture and have the work they create protected. These principles intertwine to support a rich and diverse culture.
- In many countries, there are already copyright provisions that establish licensing frameworks enabling access while ensuring fair payment to authors and respect of their rights.
- Fees for educational use are typically low enough to make them an economical way for many students to access works.
- Recent court decisions in Canada have reiterated the fairness of licensing solutions over copyright exceptions.

Remuneration

- For authors to continue to create, we must ensure they are rewarded fairly. If authors are not rewarded, the diversity, quality and quantity of works created will suffer.
- An analysis of education copyright exceptions in the UK revealed that almost 25% of authors derived more than 60% of their income from secondary licensing income, and a 10% decline in authors' income would lead to a 20% drop in output. There is a clear case for fair licensing as a means to ensure the balance of access and reward.
- In Canada, authors have lost tens of millions of dollars to uncompensated educational copying, and the national educational content has been reduced.

Future culture

- Authors preserve and promote cultural diversity through art, literature and language. When local authors cannot afford to create, a country must turn to imported culture.
- Research in the UK has identified that authors, particularly of educational works, would potentially stop creating works if licensing were not in place to reward them fairly for their efforts.
- There is evidence that Canadian authors have reduced their output, especially in writing educational works, as Canadian educators rely on free and imported content.

The International Authors Forum (IAF) represents over 700,000 authors worldwide through nearly 70 author organisations, and campaigns for their interests in every country.

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