



## IFLA CLM Principles for Library Associations and Libraries in Approaches to Rightholders during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Many rightholders around the world have demonstrated a very welcome readiness to support libraries and education in this global pandemic. When library associations and libraries are approaching rightholders' organizations or individual rightholders to seek flexibility for their country, region or institution, at least for the duration of the crisis, libraries should request that rightholders agree to the following:

- That rightholders support openly online storytimes by librarians and educators where they are not already allowed, to allow for the necessity of remote learning and to continue to instil a love of reading. So far, we have welcomed the spirit of cooperation shown by publishers in Australia, Ireland and New Zealand, as well as the initiatives taken by the [publishers listed here](#).
- That rightholders provide open access to COVID-19 related material from all relevant disciplines, paired with meaningful discoverability tools to allow for the obvious need for urgent dissemination of vital knowledge. Many publishers have indeed made relevant content available, although [further progress](#) is needed. Nonetheless, without effective discoverability tools, it is difficult to realise the potential of this access.
- That rightholders enable the re-use of works such as for Text and Data Mining (TDM) purposes to facilitate new and dynamic ways of generating insights and knowledge, one of the fundamental goals of the copyright system. With the [first insights](#) into the emergence and spread of the virus having come from use of this technique, its potential to contribute to scientific progress is clear.
- Where there is acquired content - either subscribed to or via legal deposit - which is usually available to individuals on site, that rightholders provide access remotely at no extra cost - for example via university authentication platforms - and without additional limitations (for example with [Springer Nature](#) allowing extended log-ins) to allow for continued learning and research, or allow libraries to create copies and provide access themselves in as similar a fashion to that possible on-site.
- That where library hardcopy versions are not accessible because libraries are closed, but are on loan to lecturers, rightholders allow lecturers to scan chapters onto password-protected e-learning platforms at no cost, or share with other higher education libraries through secure interlibrary-loans systems, on request.
- That rightholders allow free copies of full-text articles from already-subscribed library e-databases to be uploaded onto e-learning platforms for inclusion in online lectures or discussions, etc.



- That rightholders facilitate simultaneous access to eBooks (as has already happened with OverDrive and RB Digital) to reach as many readers as possible and to continue to promote the value of books and reading. In doing so, we encourage publishers to set pricing at levels that do not jeopardise the ability of libraries to pay for eBooks in future.
- That rightholders inform collective management organisations where materials have been made freely available, in order to ensure that libraries are not obliged to purchase licences nonetheless.
- That rightholders take constructive approaches to additional uses of materials, not least in the context of education. In addition, where publishers and authors are facing loss of income, libraries should support their inclusion as beneficiaries of stimulus packages, alongside libraries.
- In their public messaging, libraries should reinforce that governments need to enact flexible copyright legislation, such as exceptions, that will ensure libraries, educational institutions and their audiences, will not have to deal with the failure of copyright laws to effectively enable access to learning and reading in the digital environment.
- Restrictions on interlibrary loans (ILL) for educational and research purposes during a time of crisis should be lifted as this would allow remote access to certain digital and non-digital materials. Currently, ILL services tend not to allow for the forwarding of material to library users electronically, cutting off a vital source of support for learning and research.
- Special measures should be in place for as long as necessary, reflecting that normal library services and programming may not be able to resume for months. It is likely, for example, that many summer reading programmes will need to take place exclusively, or primarily online, while students, and researchers are likely to need to draw on resources remotely in order to be able to catch up on time lost during the pandemic.