



April 3, 2020

Director General Francis Gurry
World Intellectual Property Organization
34, chemin des Colombettes CH-1211
Geneva 20, Switzerland

Dear Dr. Gurry,

We write to you as organisations and individuals representing researchers, educators, students, and the institutions that support them, to encourage WIPO to take a clear stand in favour of ensuring that intellectual property regimes are a support, and not a hindrance, to efforts to tackle both the Coronavirus outbreak and its consequences.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a bright light on how important intellectual property limitations and exceptions can be to development and human flourishing. Researchers discovered the spread of the virus through a text and data mining project analyzing copyrighted news articles, enabled by Canada's flexible fair dealing right for research purposes. The earliest potential treatments have been developed through existing medicines, enabled by experimental use exceptions to patent rights.

Now, schools, universities, libraries, archives, museums and research institutes across the world, forced to close their buildings, are transferring materials online and providing remote access, but only where copyright laws permit. However, these and other critical activities to overcome the crisis are not being performed everywhere - including where subscriptions have been paid in advance - because they are not lawful everywhere.

We have seen helpful steps from a number of countries, and from some right holders themselves, to facilitate access to academic articles and other works, educational and cultural materials, research data, chemical libraries, and needed medicines and medical devices that are subject to intellectual property rights. These steps are to be lauded. But much more is needed. And WIPO can help lead the way.

We urge you to use your position as the leader of the global intellectual property system to take urgent action to guide Member States and others in their response to intellectual property issues that the coronavirus is raising. These steps should include:

- Encouraging all WIPO member states to take advantage of flexibilities in the international system that permit uses of intellectual property-protected works for online education, for research and experimental uses, and for vital public interests, such as access to medicine and culture;

- Calling on all right holders to remove licensing restrictions that inhibit remote education, research (including for text and data mining and artificial intelligence projects) and access to culture, including across borders, both to help address the global pandemic, and in order to minimise the disruption caused by it;
- Supporting the call by Costa Rica for the World Health Organization to create a global pool of rights in COVID-19 related technology and data, as well as promoting the use of the Medicines Patents Pool, voluntary licensing, intellectual property pledges, compulsory licensing, use of competition laws, and other measures to eliminate barriers to the competitive global manufacture, distribution and sale of potentially effective products to detect, prevent, and treat COVID-19.
- Supporting countries' rights to enact and use exceptions to trade secret and other intellectual property rights needed to facilitate greater access to manufacturing information, cell lines, confidential business information, data, software, product blueprints, manufacturing processes, and other subject matter needed to achieve universal and equitable access to COVID-19 medicines and medical technologies as soon as reasonably possible.

We believe that WIPO through your leadership can show its commitment to achieving sustainable development by taking swift and clear action to ensure that the global intellectual property system promotes research, education, access to culture, and public health.

Yours sincerely,

Organizations (listed alphabetically)

1. ABCU, Asociación Civil
2. Africa Centre for Clinical Governance Research and Patient Safety, HRI West Africa, Calabar, Nigeria
3. Aktionsbündnis Urheberrecht Bildung und Wissenschaft, Germany
4. Alianza LAC-Global por el Acceso a Medicamentos, Global
5. American Library Association, USA
6. Amical Wikimedia
7. Aprender 3C, Comunidad de Conocimiento Colaborativo
8. Asociación Chaqueña de Bibliotecarios, Argentina
9. Asociación Bibliotecarios de Córdoba (A.B.C.), Argentina
10. Asociación Civil de Bibliotecarios Jurídicos (ACBJ), Argentina
11. Asociación de Bibliotecarios de Jujuy, Jujuy, Argentina
12. Asociación de Bibliotecarios Graduados de la República Argentina (ABGRA), Argentina

13. Asociación de Bibliotecarios Graduados de la República Argentina (ABGRA) - Delegación Mendoza, Argentina
14. Asociación de Bibliotecólogos del Uruguay, Uruguay
15. Asociación de Bibliotecarios Profesionales de Rosario, Argentina
16. Asociación Mexicana de Bibliotecarios, A.C. AMBAC, Mexico
17. Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL), Puerto Rico
18. Association of College and Research Libraries, USA
19. Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic, Czech Republic
20. Association of Research Libraries (ARL)
21. Associação Nacional para o Software Livre (ANSOL), Portugal
22. Associação Portuguesa de Bibliotecários, Arquivistas e Documentalistas (BAD), Portugal
23. Australian Digital Alliance, Australia
24. Biblioteca del Congreso de la Nación / Library of the National Congress, Argentina
25. Biblioteca Depositaria de las Naciones Unidas y Hábitat, Argentina
26. Biblioteca Nacional de Maestros (BNM), Argentina
27. Biblioteca Nacional de México
28. Biblioteca Popular Chacras de Coria Mendoza, Argentina
29. Biblioteca pública Belén de Umbría, Colombia
30. Bibliotecarios Al Senado, Argentina
31. Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians/ l'Association canadienne des bibliothécaires en enseignement supérieur (CAPAL/ACBES)
32. Canadian Association of Research Libraries, Canada
33. Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération Canadienne des Associations de Bibliothèques, Canada
34. Cancer Alliance, South Africa
35. Caucasus International University, Georgia
36. Center for Democracy & Technology, USA
37. Center for Information Policy Research, School of Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USA
38. Center for Media & Social Impact, USA
39. Center for Private Law Foundation, Armenia

40. Centre for Intellectual Property Policy & Management (CIPPM), Bournemouth University, UK
41. Centre for International Studies on Internet, Innovation and Intellectual Property - GNet UFMG, Brazil
42. Centre for Internet and Society (CIS), India
43. Centro de Información y Documentación en Farmacodependencia, Costa Rica
44. Centrum Cyfrowe, Poland
45. CILIP, UK Library and Information Association, UK
46. Civil Liberties Union for Europe (Liberties)
47. Colectic, Spain
48. Colegio Colombiano de Bibliotecología - ASCOLBI, Colombia
49. Colegio de Bibliotecarios de Chile, Chile
50. Colegio Nacional de Bibliotecarios, A. C., Mexico
51. Comfamiliar Risaralda, Colombia
52. Commons Foundation, South Korea
53. COMMUNIA International Association
54. Consortium des Bibliothèques de l'Enseignement Supérieur de Côte d'Ivoire (COBES-CI), Côte d'Ivoire
55. Coordinadora de Bibliotecas Populares de La Matanza, Argentina
56. Corporacion Innovarte, Chile
57. Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL), Canada
58. Creative Commons
59. Creative Commons Brasil
60. Creative Commons Colombia
61. Creative Commons Czech Republic
62. Creative Commons Denmark, Danmark
63. Creative Commons Ecuador
64. Creative Commons Indonesia
65. Creative Commons Italian Chapter
66. Creative Commons Kenya
67. Creative Commons Lithuania
68. Creative Commons Nederland

69. Creative Commons Portugal
70. Creative Commons Slovenia
71. Creative Commons Uruguay
72. Creative Commons Venezuela
73. Cyprus Internet Observatory - Ellakcy
74. D3 - Defesa dos Direitos Digitais, Portugal
75. Derechos Digitales · América Latina
76. DiGiCULT/UFERSA - Grupos de Estudos e Pesquisas em Direito Digital e Direitos Culturais da Universidade Federal Rural do Semiárido, Brasil
77. Digital Republic, Bulgaria
78. Digitale Gesellschaft, Germany
79. Disabled Children's Action Group (DICAG), South Africa
80. Education International (EI)
81. Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL)
82. Epilepsy South Africa
83. European Students' Union (ESU)
84. Europeana Foundation, The Netherlands
85. Europeana Network Association (ENA), The Netherlands
86. Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales Flacso Sede Argentina
87. Femsprocomuns, Spain
88. Free Knowledge Institute, Netherlands
89. Fundación Conector, Colombia
90. Fundación IFARMA, Colombia
91. Fundación Karisma, Colombia
92. Fundación Vía Libre, Argentina
93. GEDA - Grupo de Estudos de Direito Autoral e Industrial /Universidade Federal do Paraná - Brasil
94. Global Expert Network on Copyright User Rights
95. Global Humanitarian Progress GHP Corp.
96. GFOSS - Open Technology Alliance, Greece
97. Grupo Bibliotecario sobre Acceso a la Información y Propiedad Intelectual (G-BAIPI), Argentina

98. Grupo de Estudos de Direito Autoral e Industrial (GEDAI), Universidade Federal do Paraná, Brasil
99. Grupo de Investigación Plebio, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Colombia
100. Health GAP (Global Access Project)
101. Homo Digitalis, Greece
102. ICOM - International Council of Museums, Australia
103. ICOM - International Council of Museums, France
104. ICOM/CIPEG, Denmark
105. Institute for Intellectual Property and Social Justice, USA
106. Intellectual Property Institute, Slovenia
107. International Council of Museum - Croatian National Committee
108. International Council on Archives (ICA)
109. International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
110. International Music Managers Forum
111. International Treatment Preparedness Coalition Latin American and Caribbean (ITPC-LATCA), Guatemala
112. Internet Archive
113. InternetLab - Law and Technology Research Center, São Paulo, Brazil
114. IP Unit, University of Cape Town, South Africa
115. ISUR, Colombia
116. Knowledge Commune, South Korea
117. Knowledge Ecology International (KEI)
118. La Red Nacional de Asociaciones de Bibliotecarios de la República Argentina (RENABI.AR), Argentina
119. Lawyers Collective, India
120. LIBER, The Netherlands
121. Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance (LACA), UK
122. Library of American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
123. LWC Health
124. Medical Training Services
125. Misión Salud, Colombia
126. National Library and Information Services of The Bahamas

127. National Library of the Faroe Islands
128. Nepal Library and Information Consortium (NeLIC)
129. Nexa Center for Internet & Society, Italy
130. Northeastern University's Center for Law, Innovation and Creativity (CLIC), USA
131. Observatorio Astronómico de Córdoba, Argentina
132. Observatorio del Tratado de Marrakech en América Latina
133. Open Content, z.s., Czech Republic
134. Open Denmark, Danmark
135. Open Knowledge Foundation
136. Open Nederland
137. Open State Foundation
138. Ovedje Rory Writing Services, Nigeria
139. Partido Interdimensional Pirata, Argentina
140. Polish Librarians Association, Poland
141. Proprietas (National Institute of Science and Technology), Brazil
142. Public Citizen, USA
143. Public Knowledge, USA
144. REBIUN Spanish Academic Libraries, Spain
145. Recitaria Red de Redes de Información AR
146. Red BibliotecasJuriRed
147. Red de Latinoamérica y del Caribe de Derecho de Autor, del Acceso a la Información, la Cultura y otros temas relativos (REDLACDA - Copyright Network)
148. Red Distrital de Bibliotecas Públicas de Bogotá - BiblioRed, Colombia
149. Research Libraries UK, United Kingdom
150. Romanian National Public Libraries and Librarians Association, Romania
151. Salud y Fármacos Estados Unidos
152. SCONUL (Society of College, National and University Libraries), United Kingdom
153. Secretariado Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Caritas (SELACC)
154. Shuttleworth Foundation
155. SPARC Europe, Netherlands
156. Special Libraries Association, United States

157. South African Disability Alliance
158. South African National Council for the Blind (SANCB)
159. Telemedicine Society of India
160. Tohatoha Aotearoa Commons, New Zealand
161. Treatment Action Group, South Africa
162. UMAC-Committee of ICOM for University Museums and Collections, Portugal
163. Vialidad Nacional, Argentina
164. Vrijschrift
165. Wikimedia Argentina
166. Wikimedia Deutschland
167. Wikimedia España
168. Wikimedia Italia
169. Xnet, Spain
170. Young Pirates of Europe, Pan-European youth organization

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77. Joan Danés Pons, Catalunya - España
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101. Nora Fowler, Biblioteca Popular Sofia Moll de Milton, Argentina

102. Jesse Funston-Mills, University of Waterloo, Canada
103. Gustavo Furtado, INCA - Instituto Nacional de Câncer, Brasil
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126. Sridhar Gutam, Open Access India
127. Fernando Gabriel Gutiérrez, Universidad Nacional de Luján. Sistema de Bibliotecas y Centros de Documentación, Argentina
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129. Wilma Haan, Open State Foundation
130. Eldar Haber, University of Haifa, Israel

131. Susan Haigh, Canadian Association of Research Libraries, Canada
132. Debora Halbert, Department of Political Science, University of Hawaii at Manoa, United States
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134. Lori Hallahan, Georgian College, Canada
135. David Hansen, Duke University, USA
136. Md. Shahajada Masud Anowarul Haque, BRAC University, Bangladesh
137. Michael Harrington, Berklee Online, USA
138. Naomi Hawkins, University of Exeter Law School, UK
139. Elizabeth Heckenberg, ALIATech, Australia
140. Evelin Heidel, Member, Creative Commons
141. Yaniv Heled, Georgia State University College of Law, USA
142. Mandy Henk, Tohatoha Aotearoa Commons, New Zealand
143. Joachim Henkel, Technical University of Munich, Germany
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155. Elizabeth Hutchinson, Independent Adviser and Trainer, School Libraries
156. Frank Huysmans, Library science, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
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159. María del Carmen Iglesias, Asociación Bibliotecarios Escolares de Merlo

160. Vinodh Ilangovan, Labdemic
161. Susan Ingram, York University, Canada
162. Mika Ito, University of Washington, USA
163. Priyal Jain, ICFAI Law School, India
164. Guriqbal Singh Jaiya, Telemedicine Society of India
165. Steven Jamar, Institute for Intellectual Property and Social Justice, Washington, DC, USA
166. Peter Jaszi, American University Washington College of Law, USA
167. Elsi Jimenez, Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo, República Dominicana
168. Eric E. Johnson, University of Oklahoma College of Law, USA
169. Charles Jones, Pennsylvania State University, United States
170. Paulius Jurcys, Creative Commons Lithuania
171. Brewster Kahle, Internet Archive
172. Lisette Kalshoven, Creative Commons Nederland
173. Toshiya Kaneko, Meiji University, Japan
174. Mohammad Ataul Karim, East West University, Dhaka, Bangladesh
175. Brandy Karl, Pennsylvania State University Libraries, USA
176. Ariel Katz, University of Toronto Faculty of Law, Canada
177. Dick Kawooya, University of South Carolina, USA
178. Amalyah Keshet, Copyright Management for Cultural Heritage
179. Behrang Kianzad, Copenhagen University, Faculty of Law, Denmark
180. Aristeidis Kimirtzis, Greece
181. Danny Kingsley, Visiting Fellow, Australian National centre for the Public Awareness of Science, Australia
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183. Martin Kretschmer, CREATE, University of Glasgow, UK
184. Sapna Kumar, University of Houston, USA
185. Adhy Kurniawan, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
186. David Kwoba, SSP - Supply, Systems & People
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197. Yong Liu, Hebei Academy of Social Sciences in China
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203. Ivonne Lujano, Arizona State University, United States
204. Alex Lungu, Artist
205. Marina Monteiro Machado, Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
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209. Michael Madison, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, USA
210. Kara Malenfant, Association of College and Research Libraries
211. Bashar Malkawi, University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
212. Hitesh Manglani, ICFAI University, Jaipur, India
213. Paige Mann, University of Redlands, USA
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215. Jakub Marjankowski, Jagiellonian University, Poland
216. Nancy Marrelli, Concordia University, Canada
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224. Stephen McJohn, Suffolk University Law School, United States
225. Julie McKenna, Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération Canadienne des Associations de Bibliothèques, Canada
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