



## **IFLA Statement on Copyright and Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

*This document is designed to help IFLA member libraries as they navigate copyright issues related to the use of AI and to support the development of relevant library programs and services. This statement also supports the work of the IFLA Artificial Intelligence Special Interest Group.*

### **Considerations**

- The emergence of AI technologies raises many considerations for libraries, including how content is used and by whom. Libraries are uniquely situated to lead in this space, affirming and advancing their role as innovators- from supporting the training of AI, including AI-generated content in library collections, use in aiding cataloguing and collection/item discovery, and improving and more efficiently delivering core library services such as reference and interlibrary loan services.
- At the same time, we are also seeing rightsholders seek to restrict use of content for training, and even the use of AI tools in the course of work to support the achievement of library missions.
- In many countries, existing copyright law (both economic and moral rights) has evolved and adapted to accommodate innovative technologies and is well equipped to address the legitimate concerns of creators, including libraries in their role as creators of AI-based processes and services. However, this is not the case everywhere.
- In many countries, legislation and principles related to AI also exist outside of copyright law. For issues that are not copyright-related, such as health, safety, privacy, and ethical concerns related to the development and use of AI in library programs and services, libraries should look to the most appropriate source of policy information for guidance. Libraries should consider implementing or recommending to users AI tools with a values-driven approach. For example, AI tools should not compromise freedom of expression, privacy, or other areas of concern (such as environmental impacts and limitations on human agency).

## Recommendations

- In jurisdictions where copyright law does not support typical and evolving library uses of AI, **libraries** should advocate for and inform decision-makers about the benefits of expanding existing limitations and exceptions for research to permit uses such as text and data mining (TDM) (including for the training of AI) of legally accessed or acquired content.
- Libraries are committed to addressing bias as they navigate copyright challenges. Limited access to data/resources can lead to bias in AI systems, hence, **libraries** should advocate for the widest possible access to materials as well as making collections AI ready with appropriate licences whilst also observing FAIR and CARE principles. Such efforts should be combined with continuous monitoring of AI services in libraries to ensure adherence to diversity and equitable access to information.
- **Libraries** should build capacity, raise awareness, and offer essential training on evolving technologies-including AI- to support employees, researchers, and other library users. They should pay due attention to the transparency and integrity of AI tools they develop or provide access to, applying available good practice tools. Furthermore, libraries should continue to support authors in this evolving space.
- **Governments** should be guided by existing human rights conventions in the development of laws and regulations related to AI. Copyright law should not be used as a blunt force tool to address ethical and other concerns raised by AI.
- **Governments** should support library and wider efforts to develop ethical practices in response to related concerns with AI tools, such as those developed by [ARL](#). They should also support efforts to apply appropriate tools to protect, for example, traditional knowledge (as advocated by [ALIA](#)).
- **Governments and AI companies** should make available resources to support repositories where copying of content for AI training purposes risks lowering performance for other users.
- **Rightholders and vendors** should not include language in contracts that hampers or unduly restricts the use of AI by library users or prevents the use of any applicable exceptions in copyright law, as found in domestic legislation and/or described in relevant case law. In accordance with this IFLA endorses the [ICOLC](#) statement on AI licensing.

*Agreed by the IFLA Governing Board, 4 April 2025*