



ANNUAL MEETING

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Discussion Group A Facilitating access to documents in copyright – Elisabeth Niggemann, Director General, German National Library

In the near future most (or many) public domain works will be digitized and available online via cultural portals like Europeana. In the future most (or many) new works will be published and available online as „born digital“ works. The majority of the vast amount of printed in-copyright works will not be digitized because of copyright issues.

To give an example: Of all printed works published in Germany, more than 80% are published after 1900 and the vast majority of these works are under copyright.

In Europe there is a new EU Directive on Orphan Works which has to be implemented in the member states, creating (time consuming) solutions for orphan works under certain conditions.

In Germany a new law on Out-of-Commerce Works was passed. The out-of-commerce books and periodicals can be digitized and made available to the public by publicly accessible libraries, educational institutions, museums and archives under certain conditions and under a license that can be obtained from the German collecting societies. The legislation was modelled after a EC Memorandum of Understanding on Out-of-Commerce Works as a result of a Stakeholder Dialogue and also after a joint proposal coming from the „Deutsche Literaturkonferenz“, a working group of representatives of authors, publishers, reprographic rights organizations and librarians.

There are other solutions and regulations in other countries. Participants are invited to share the situation in their own country.

What can we, what can CDNL do to facilitate access to documents within copyright? What is at stake? What is missing? What can be seen as best practice?