

BA A2K Platform Newsletter

Non Periodic Issue (9)

June 2010



Have a
Say on A2K

Creative Commons in the Arab World Views from the Global South



Knowledge is the accumulation of human intellectual experience and expression through time. Knowledge is, also, the core of mankind's development and progress. Great leaps in the advancement of science and momentous turning points in the history of mankind were underpinned by new discoveries and by the unleashing of creative capacities.

Thus, one can confidently argue that access to knowledge is an indispensable tool for civilizations to last. History also proves that civilizations grew and flourished with the dissemination of knowledge and the integration among sciences. When knowledge was confined only to the elite, it perished beyond retrieval. exemplifies the destructive consequences of inaccessibility to knowledge.

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*"If you have
knowledge, let
others light
their candles
with it."*



Margaret Fuller



WIPO Treaty for Improved Access for Blind, Visually Impaired and other Reading Disabled Persons

Recognizing the importance of accessibility in the process of the equalization of opportunities in all spheres of society, Aware of the many barriers to access to information

and communication experienced by persons who are blind or have limited vision, or have other disabilities regarding access to published works,

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News Highlights



Fair Use

April 27th, 2010

Study: Fair Use Contributes Trillions to U.S. Economy

April 27th, 2010

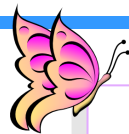
CCIA Releases Report on Fair Use in the US Economy

April 27th, 2010

The "fair use economy" is enormous, growing, and endangered by the relatively tiny entertainment industry



*"Without knowledge,
life is no more than
the shadow of death"*
Moliere



Anti-Counterfeiting Treaty (ACTA)

April 1st, 2010

Anti-Counterfeit Laws Threaten Universal Access to ARVs

April 13th, 2010

Anti-Counterfeiting Agreement Undermines Efforts Toward Transparency

April 15th, 2010

WIPO, WTO Requested To Advise On Anti-Counterfeiting Treaty



Copyright 300 Birthday

April 8th, 2010

Copyright and wrong : Why the rules on copyright need to return to their roots

April 10th, 2010

Copyright law must be simplified

April 10th, 2010

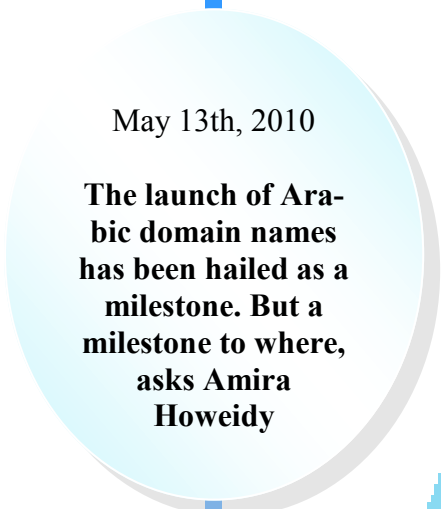
Copyright turns 300

April 10th, 2010

Copyright Turns 300 Today

May 13th, 2010

The launch of Arabic domain names has been hailed as a milestone. But a milestone at where, asks Amira Howeidy



Hot Issues in A2K

“Know where to find the information and how to use it - That's the secret of success”

Albert Einstein



WIPO Treaty for Improved Access for Blind, Visually Impaired and other Reading Disabled Persons



Copyright vs. The Right to Read

May 27th, 2010

In developed countries barely 5% of all published works are available in formats which are accessible to blind and visually impaired people. In developing countries, this number drops to a mere 0.5%. So 99.5% of published books are inaccessible to blind and partially sighted South Africans.

The South African Copyright law exacerbates the problem as there are no provisions for persons with disabilities to convert material into accessible formats.

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Project puts 1M books online for blind, dyslexic

May 6th, 2010

SAN FRANCISCO – Even as audio versions of best-sellers fill store shelves and new technology fuels the popularity of digitized books, the number of titles accessible to people who are blind or dyslexic is minuscule.

A new service being announced Thursday by the nonprofit Internet Archive in San Francisco is trying to change that. The group has hired hundreds of people to scan thousands of books into its digital database — more than doubling the titles available to people who aren't able to read a hard copy.

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The Latest BA A2K Project Publications

Translated Materials

Special and Differential Treatment of Developing Countries in TRIPS

Differential and more favourable treatment of developing countries has been a fundamental principle of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

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The Politics and Practicalities of a Disclosure of Origin Obligation

Developing countries are actively pursuing, in different fora, the recognition of an obligation to disclose the origin of biological resources.

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BA A2K
“Toolkit II”
 now Fully
 available in
[Arabic](#)

Suggested Readings

The Legality of Free and Open Source Software Licences

By: Professor Brian Fitzgerald,
Mr. Rami Olwan

Suggested Readings

Traditional Knowledge and Intellectual Properties

By: Stephen A. Hansen
and Justin W. VanFleet



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