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BAA2K Platform Newsletter

Non Periodic Issue (5) November 2009



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"Shall we add another access; Access to Finance" Jami Hubbard & Hala Essalmawi Responsible Regulation: Lessons and Innovations in Microfinance from the Developing World



The IDLO—Microfinance International Conference will be taking place in Rome Thursday 12 November, 2009

Jami Hubbard, IDLO Manager of Microfinance Program Guest Speakers:

- **Deborah Burand**, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Michigan
- Simone Di Castri, Policy Analyst, CGAP
- April Rinne, Director, Water Credit, water.org
- Claudio Gonzales Vega, Director Rural Finance Program, Ohio State University
- Eduardo Jimenez, Microfinance Consultant, Bangko Sentral, the Philippines

For more info click here

Latest Events

If new drugs are developed, will they be accessible to the poor?

Intellectual Property Rights & Development Workshop (27-28 Sept. 2009)

The workshop focused on, IP protection in the Arab world, Free Trade Agreements, and the effect of IP on Access to Health and Medicine.

IP Issues in Geneva

- Health
- Environment/ Climate Change
- Biodiversity/ Genetic Resources
- Traditional knowledge
- Food Security
- Access to Knowledge



The balance of IP protection is leaning more in favor of IPRs holders at the expense of public interest. This must be urgently addressed in order to achieve the genuine objectives of IPRs protection.

Creativity and innovation build on the previous achievements of human kind, and access to these achievements should not be blocked by strict copyright regimes that sway the balance of benefit to the creative innovator and the general public.

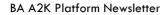
Can you make money with free software? YES! "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants"

Sir Isaac Newton

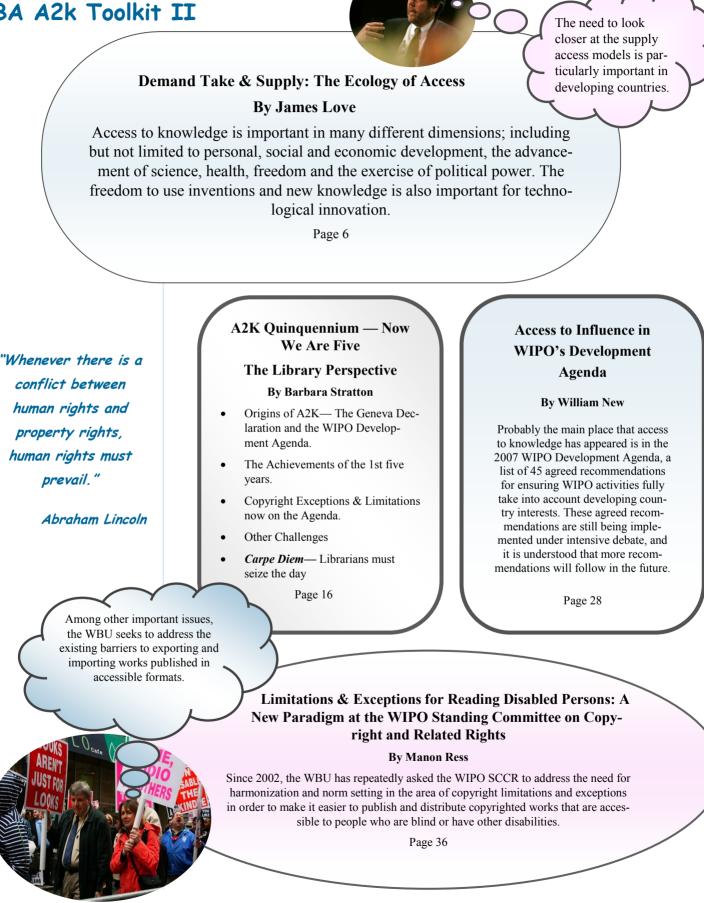
Copyright Protection in the Digital Age Workshop (29 Sep.—1 Oct. 2009)

The workshop discussed the options and alternatives to access and disseminate knowledge such as Free and Open-Source Software, Open Access, and Creative Commons, in addition to the protection of software and database in Egypt.

Technology used to develop software is not protected under copyright law. Is Creative Commons against copyright? No ! Page 2



BA A2k Toolkit II



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BA A2k Toolkit II

Access to Knowledge, Education, and Intellectual Property Protection in the Arab World: The Challenges of Development

By Mohammed El Said

The dilemma for developing countries – including Arab countries – lies in the fact that in the majority of cases these countries are net importers of knowledge and technology. This has increasingly set the alarm bells about the importance and need for reforming the underperforming educational regimes prevailing in these countries, whereby the cycle of knowledge production and development often commences. Notably, the production of knowledge in today's environment is mainly governed and codified by legal rules referred to as "Intellectual Property Rights" (IPRs). Page 52

Addressing Access To Knowledge Issues In Africa

By Denise Rosemary Nicholson

Some African countries, under pressure from developed countries and strong lobbying from rights-holders particularly in the entertainment industries, have adopted stricter copyright regimes with extended copyright terms, which far exceed the minimum requirements of international intellectual property agreements, for example, Berne Convention and the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights ("TRIPS") Agreement. This has resulted in restricted access to information and knowledge and the sharing of resources across borders has been negatively affected.

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The A2K Movement in Australia (2006 – 2009)

By Prof. Brian Fitzgerald, Prof. Anne Fitzgerald and Kylie Pappalardo

- Access to academic publications
- Access to research data
- Access to public sector information (PSI)
- Opening up Australia's archives
- Recent and future developments in Australia

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To start with, there is a greater need to reform the educational regime in the Arab World.