

# BA A2K Platform Newsletter

Non Periodic Issue (6)

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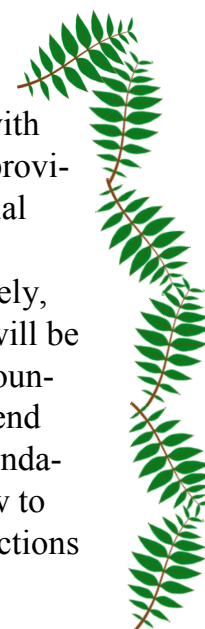


## Consumer Protection in the Context of Microfinance Research

There is a clear role for lawyers to engage in development activities by assisting the poor to access information about their legal rights, thereby facilitating *Access to Knowledge*. Lawyers can also directly provide legal aid as well as advocate for the improved protection of consumer rights. Thus, the BA A2K

project is Collaborating with the International Development Law Organization to explore the expansion of the A2K panorama. Together, BA and IDLO are researching the *de jure* and *de facto* existence of consumer protection principles in the Egyptian legal and regulatory framework and micro-finance industry,

particularly with regard to the provision of financial services to the poor. Ultimately, this research will be done in five countries and will end with recommendations as to how to improve protections for the poor.



*"Share your knowledge. It's a way to achieve immortality."*  
The Dalai Lama



### African-Arab Seminar on Copyright Limitations and Exceptions: Addressing the Needs of Affected Constituencies

The seminar provided a forum for a dialogue and exchange of information, and views among different stakeholders in African and Arab countries in copyright limitations and exceptions, including the current discussions on the need of a treaty for the visually impaired.



The Bibliotheca Alexandrina representative's power point [here](#)

# News Highlights

## Anti—Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA)

November 17th, 2009

**ACTA: Walk away or get on board**

November 30th, 2009

**EU ACTA analysis leaks: confirms plans for global DMCA, encourage 3 strikes model**

December 7th, 2009

**Transparency of FTAA negotiations, compared to ACTA**

December 21, 2009

**ACTA may prompt quick restart to EU harmonization of criminal enforcement Of IP**



*"True knowledge exists in knowing that you know nothing. And in knowing that you know nothing, that makes you the smartest of all."*  
*Socrates*



November 26th, 2009  
**How Science is shackled by IP? Ownership rights pose a real danger to scientific progress for the public good**

December 4th, 2009  
**Update on Google Books Statement**

December 14th, 2009  
**The WIPO SCCR 19 begins its work**

December 17th, 2009  
**WIPO Draft On Visually Impaired Shows Break-through**

December 19th, 2009  
**IP References Left Out Of Last-Minute, Weak Global Climate Deal In Copenhagen**



## Internet Governance Forum

November 15th, 2009

**IGF 2009 event rattled by UN Security Office**

November 16th, 2009

**Censorship at IGF in Sharm el Sheikh**

November 16th, 2009

**FAQ: What happened at the Internet Governance Forum?**

November 18th, 2009

**Egypt the first Arab country to apply for the registration of domain names in Arabic under the scope (dot Egypt)**



## Latest Publications



*"If you give people tools, (and they use) their natural ability and their curiosity, they will develop things in ways that will surprise you very much beyond what you might have expected."*

*Bill Gates*



*"A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both."*

*Dwight D. Eisenhower*



### **BA A2K Toolkit I has been updated with:**

#### **The GNU Free Documentation License**

**By Anas Tawileh**

The adoption of the GNU General Public License (GPL) did not face any significant difficulties. Despite all the challenges it posed to proprietary software development companies, and the vested interests of so many players, the GPL was incredibly successful in attracting large numbers of software developers to write and contribute high quality software. This can be partly attributed to the characteristics of the software development process, in which several developers collaborate to write small chunks of code, in addition to the ethos of software developers who tend to favor tinkering around with source code to learn how it works, and then work on improving it.

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### **Networking: Researchers From The Arab World**

**Dr. Anas Tawileh**

**Consultant for the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada and Vice President of Engineering for Meedan.net**

A firm believer in Free and Open Source Software (F/OSS), Dr. Anas Tawileh established the GNU/Linux Syria User Group in Damascus in 2002 and started the Arab Commons Initiative. He has a Masters degree in Information Systems Engineering from Cardiff University and a PhD in Information Assurance from the same university.

#### **Publications:**

Open Source - Unlimited Opportunities

Wireless Networking in the Developing World - Arabic Edition

VoIP for Development: A Primer



## Translated Material

### Open Access & the Divide Between “Mainstream” & “Peripheral” Science

By Jean-Claude Guédon

“Neither the “centre”, nor the “periphery” is monolithic and, on at least some issues, they display points of convergence. Open Access to the scientific literature is a good example of such a possible convergence: most scientists everywhere can agree that it will improve their ability to work and to contribute to the evolution of science. But they may have different arguments to support this viewpoint.”

To view full Arabic version click [here](#)



Ph. D. in history of Science (University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1974) and Professor at the University of Montreal, **Jean-Claude Guédon** must have been among the very first users of the Net in the humanities as he began to explore the Internet ca. 1988. Through his understanding of the power of the Net, he designed and launched an electronic scholarly journal in the humanities in 1991 (Surfaces) and this is the oldest extant e-journal in Canada.

**Coming soon**  
**BA A2K Toolkit II**  
**In Arabic**



*“If you have  
knowledge, let others  
light their candles at  
it.”*

*Margaret Fuller*



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