

# BA A2K Platform Newsletter

Non Periodic Issue (5)

November 2009



## *Responsible Regulation: Lessons and Innovations in Microfinance from the Developing World*

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*"Shall we add another  
access;  
Access to Finance"  
Jami Hubbard & Hala  
Essalmawi*



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

### 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.

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



#### 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.

*"If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants"*

*Sir Isaac Newton*

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!**



### 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!**



# BA A2k Toolkit II



The need to look closer at the supply access models is particularly important in developing countries.

## Demand Take & Supply: The Ecology of Access

By James Love

Access to knowledge is important in many different dimensions; including but not limited to personal, social and economic development, the advancement of science, health, freedom and the exercise of political power. The freedom to use inventions and new knowledge is also important for technological innovation.

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*"Whenever there is a conflict between human rights and property rights, human rights must prevail."*

*Abraham Lincoln*

## A2K Quinquennium — Now We Are Five

### The Library Perspective

By Barbara Stratton

- Origins of A2K— The Geneva Declaration and the WIPO Development Agenda.
- The Achievements of the 1st five years.
- Copyright Exceptions & Limitations now on the Agenda.
- Other Challenges
- *Carpe Diem*— Librarians must seize the day

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## Access to Influence in WIPO's Development Agenda

By William New

Probably the main place that access to knowledge has appeared is in the 2007 WIPO Development Agenda, a list of 45 agreed recommendations for ensuring WIPO activities fully take into account developing country interests. These agreed recommendations are still being implemented under intensive debate, and it is understood that more recommendations will follow in the future.

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Among other important issues, the WBU seeks to address the existing barriers to exporting and importing works published in accessible formats.

## Limitations & Exceptions for Reading Disabled Persons: A New Paradigm at the WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights

By Manon Röss

Since 2002, the WBU has repeatedly asked the WIPO SCCR to address the need for harmonization and norm setting in the area of copyright limitations and exceptions in order to make it easier to publish and distribute copyrighted works that are accessible to people who are blind or have other disabilities.

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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).

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

### 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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