



THE RIGHT COPYRIGHT

Library association
engagement in copyright
around the world



International
Federation of
Library
Associations and Institutions



0. Introduction

Copyright is arguably one side of the same coin as library funding. While the size of library acquisition budgets determines what libraries can buy (or, in many cases, licence), copyright rules set out what they can do with these materials. Restrictive laws – or licences – can prevent libraries from carrying out the most basic tasks as preservation, lending, or enabling research and education.

With laws being made nationally, copyright is also arguably a natural area for library associations to play a role. By bringing together expertise and the ability to represent the field, they can not just help build knowledge and confidence in the profession but also be a voice for it (and the people who rely on it).

However, copyright can also easily be seen as complicated and conflictual, leading it to be given a lower priority than questions such as funding. In particular when working with limited resources, the temptation can be to focus these elsewhere.

The goal of this report is therefore to help library associations and other groupings reflect on how they can upgrade their engagement around copyright. This complements tools such as the [copyright advocacy capacities grid](#) produced by Knowledge Rights 21.

Associations and their members interested in doing this can take ideas and inspiration from the experience and activities of others as shared in this report, which both provides an overview of how associations are currently addressing copyright, and links on to their own sites in order to learn more.

The report does this firstly by setting out the methodology followed and the overall profile of respondents, before offering an idea of which questions related to copyright are the main concerns for libraries at the moment. It then runs through how associations and wider library fields approach six different types of activity – monitoring, problem-solving, producing guidelines, training, advocacy and partnering. In each case, it shares data about levels of activity, and practical information about how work is carried out.

Finally, there is a collection of summaries of national approaches to engagement in copyright, and a short discussion and conclusions session. These also draw on independent research, complementing the survey data.

As underlined, the idea of this report is to be the starting point for discussions, and it does not need to be the final version. We would be very happy to add more material to this in order to make it a living document, as more associations become engaged and have experience to share.



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1. Methodology and response profiles

TL; DR: we received 40 usable responses from associations and others from all world regions and of all sizes. We asked them to talk about their capacity, focus and activities around copyright.

The survey ran from 15 April to 2 June (including an extension), and was distributed to IFLA's association members, the members of IFLA's Management of Library Associations Section, and to the members of IFLA's Copyright and other Legal Matters Advisory Committee Network.

It consisted of the following introductory elements:

- Background information: region, in what capacity the response was being provided (as an association staffer or official, staff member of an agency, or as a practitioner)
- Association information: association type (librarians' association vs library association), focus on terms of library type, size (staff numbers), and what sort of capacity the association had for work on copyright
- Which copyright and information law-related issues are seen as priorities

It then included six sections exploring different aspects of engagement around copyright. These were chosen based on consultation with IFLA's Advisory Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters, and using the model of a previous survey focused on library association work around intellectual freedom:

- **Monitoring:** this refers to the work of associations and others both to follow the wider public debate and emerging issues related to copyright and information law, as well as tracking what is going on with laws and policies. This is both a useful action in itself in order to keep the field informed, but also a necessary step in order to carry out other actions around copyright.
- **Problem-solving:** this refers to work to provide ad hoc support to people with questions of concerns around copyright and information law. This can go from simply having a place to ask questions to a more formal offer of support, for example during conferences or other events. This is a more 'reactive' way of working but can provide reassurance as well as key help to those library and information workers using such a service.
- **Guidelines:** this refers to a more proactive approach, developing written tools and other materials which can help a wider range of colleagues and library users to work with copyright. This stretches from the work of associations to LibGuides prepared by institutions and beyond.
- **Training:** this refers to an offer of courses and other learning opportunities around copyright. It implies an additional level of proactivity, as well of course as access to trainers who can share lessons.



- **Advocacy:** this refers to more outward facing activities, looking not simply to accept the laws and regulations that are in place, but to actively change them where needed.
- **Partnering:** this refers to outward facing activities connected both to building up alliances with organisations with similar concerns and finding spaces to engage with those who may be opposed to more flexible copyright in order to find shared understanding and solutions.

In each of these areas, we asked about levels of activity (from 'not at all active' (1) to 'very active' (5)), as well as seeing details, where appropriate about who prepared and was targeted by different activities. There was also the possibility to share information more freely. When respondents said that they were not very active, we offered space to provide further information about this.

A final question asked about assessment and evaluation of copyright activities.

Overall, we received 40 usable responses. In terms of the regional breakdown of respondents, this is provided in Graph 1a and indicates that the largest single share came from Europe at 43%. North America came second with 20%, and then Sub-Saharan Africa at 13% and Asia-Oceania at 10%. LAC and MENA each accounted for 8% of the total.

Graph 1a: Respondents by region



- Asia-Oceania
- Europe
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Middle East and North Africa
- North America
- Sub-Saharan Africa

Table 1 then breaks this down by the capacity in which respondents were answering the survey. The total numbers are provided in the column titled 'total', and the others by region are shared next to this.

Overall, 63% of respondents came from associations, while 23% came from library agencies or ministries, 10% from practitioners, and 5% did not know.

Table 1: Capacity of respondents and regions

I am answering as	Total	AO	EU	LAC	MENA	NA	SSA
As a member of staff or official of a library agency/ministry	9	0	1	1	2	4	1
As a member of staff or official of an association	25	3	15	2	1	0	4
Practitioner	4	0	1	0	0	3	0
I don't want to answer	2	1	0	0	0	1	0

Digging further into the type of association respondents we had, the responses were equally divided between librarians' associations and library associations (i.e. based around individuals, or around institutions). As for the type of library in focus, 73% were general, while 13% each looked at public and academic libraries.

Turning to association size, we had 1 respondent from a very large association (25+ staff), and 3 from large ones (10-24 staff). 5 came from associations with 5-10 staff, and 7 from those with 1-4 staff. 8 had no permanent staff.

Clearly, this response rate only covers a share of the total population of library associations around the world. Given that this report is intended not only to give a snapshot of current activities, but also to provide ideas and inspiration for further engagement within associations, information shared through the survey is complemented by independently sourced material where relevant.

2. Capacity and concerns in work around copyright

TL: DR: while larger associations are more likely to have a dedicated copyright committee and/or staff member, smaller ones are also active, either through committees with a broader reach, or through mobilising volunteers. Licensing practices are a particular concern (given their impact on what libraries can do with digital resources) with open access and science and basic copyright laws also frequently cited. Larger associations may be able to engage on more issues, but smaller associations can also be active over a number of areas.

Following the background information about respondents, the survey looked to build an understanding of how library associations address copyright, as well as which issues were priorities across library fields.

Among associations, 22 respondents offered enough information to be able to carry out analysis. Therefore, we can see:

- Among **larger associations (10+ staff)**, half had dedicated copyright committees. Those that did not have dedicated committees did at least allocate part of a staff members' time. In one case, the staff member could draw on the expertise of a volunteer. All respondents had some capacity here.
- Among **associations with 5-10 staff**, there was limited capacity – just one mentioned having part of a staff member responsible for copyright issues, while the others mentioned no dedicated capacity. Only 40% of such association respondents therefore indicated that there was capacity to work on copyright.
- Among **associations with 1-4 staff**, there was more engagement – one had a dedicated copyright committee, one had a staff member focused on copyright (and another part of a staff member), and two (others) had

part of a volunteer working on this. In other words, 2/3 of such associations had capacity.

- Among **volunteer-only associations**, half had at least part of a volunteer available to work on copyright. None had a dedicated (or partially) dedicated copyright committee, meaning that overall, 50% of such associations had capacity to work on copyright.

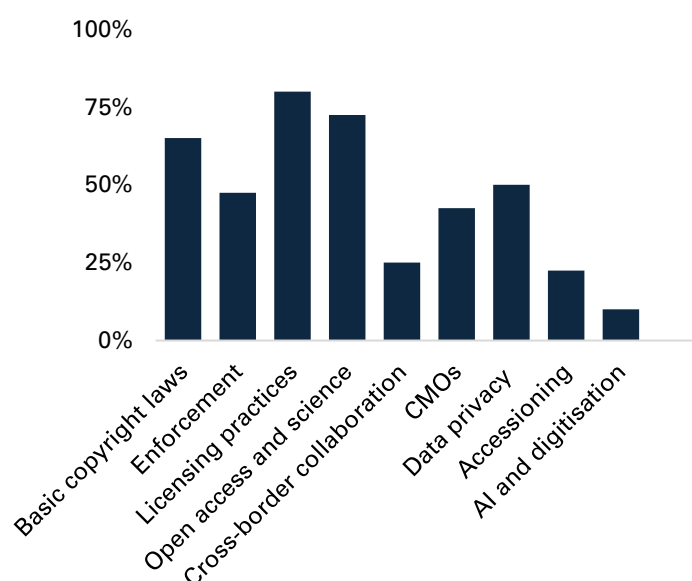
We did also ask about capacity in institutions – 50% of the 6 respondents had dedicated capacity.

The survey next asked about which themes within copyright represented priorities for advocacy work. Graph 2a sets these out overall, giving the share of respondents who selected each issue.

Licensing practices by rightholders was the most commonly cited example, with 80% of respondents selecting this. 73% chose open access and science, and 65% basic copyright laws. Data privacy and enforcement came less.

While AI and digitisation came last, it should be noted that this was not one of the original options but spontaneously suggested by some.

Graph 2a: What are your priorities in copyright?



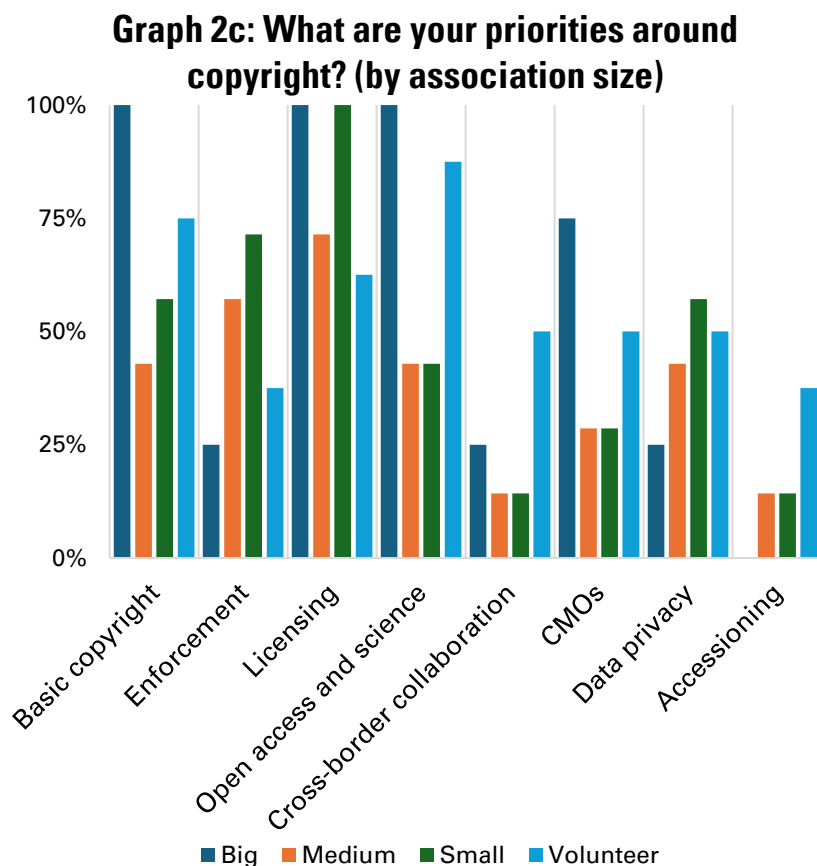
Graph 2b on the following page provides a break-down by region of this data. From this, for example, we can see that in Asia-Oceania (orange bars), there it was also basic copyright laws and licensing that came top as priorities, followed by enforcement and open access/science. As for Europeans (dark green bars), licensing practices came top, followed by basic copyright laws and open access/science. The behaviour of collective management organisations (CMOs) was highlighted by over 50% of respondents, and enforcement and data privacy by just under half.

In Latin America and the Caribbean (light blue bars), open access/science and basic copyright laws were highlighted by all respondents, and licensing and data privacy by 2/3 of them. In MENA (purple bars), enforcement, open access/science and data privacy all were referenced by 2/3 of respondents.

In North America (light green bars), licensing and open access/science were priorities for all respondents, while basic copyright laws featured in 75% of answers, and data privacy in 63%. Finally, in Sub-Saharan Africa (black bars), no issue got more than 63% of the vote, with basic copyright laws, licensing and open access/science all receiving this.

On average, European and North American respondents tended to pick an average of 5 different themes as being priorities, while those from Latin America and the Caribbean and Sub-Saharan Africa chose around 4.5, and those from Asia-Oceania and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) chose between 3 and 3.5.

Graph 2c carries out the same analysis, but by association size. We can already see that in most areas, the largest associations are also the most consistently likely to choose each theme as a priority. This is the case for basic copyright laws, laws and policies around open access and science, and on the behaviour of collective management organisations (CMOs). Both large (10+ staff) and small (1-4 staff) associations consistently also identified licensing as a concern.

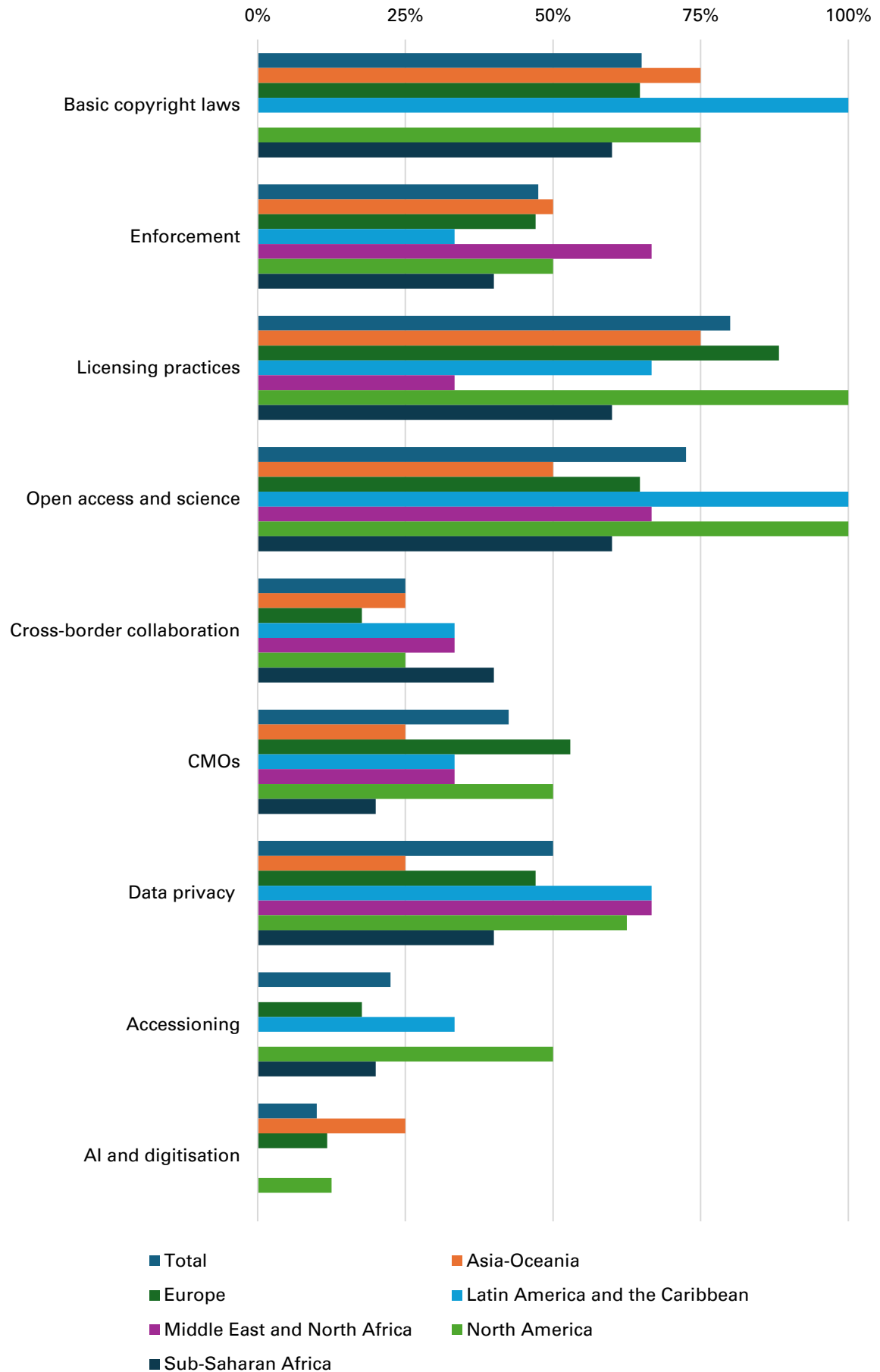


Elsewhere, it was smaller associations that were most likely to see copyright enforcement practices as a concern (71% did so), as well as data privacy (57%), while purely volunteer-led associations were most likely to select cross-border collaboration possibilities (50%) and accessioning (38%) as areas of work.

Overall, larger associations chose more topics as priorities (5.25 each), while smaller ones picked fewer (between 4 and 4.5 on average).



Graph 2b: Which copyright issues matter in each region?



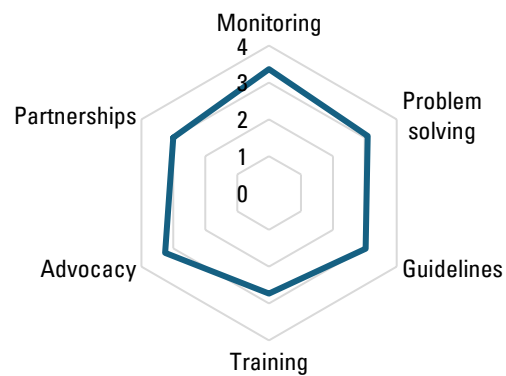
3. Library association engagement in different aspects of copyright

TL; DR: library associations and fields of all sizes and geographies are involved with each of the aspects of copyright set out in this section. There are a variety of different ways of doing this, including mobilisation of volunteers, a leading expert or institution taking on responsibility, or through collaborative working between library (and like-minded) organisations.

The next sections look at the six different aspects of working around copyright that were used to structure the survey.

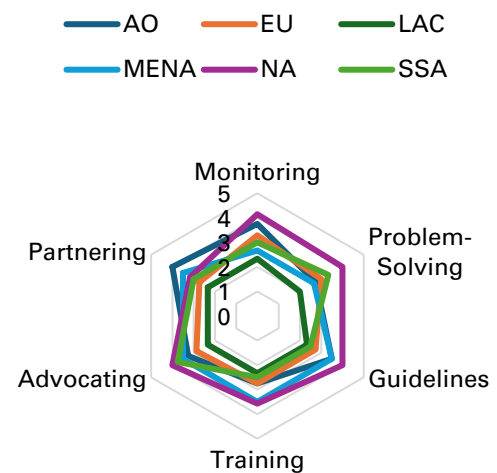
For each of these, we asked respondents to give an idea of how far they were engaged in work on each of these. The overall responses are provided in Graph 3a (right), with 1 indicating no activity at all, and 5 a high level of activity. Scores are in general around 3 (quite active), with monitoring and advocacy seeing slightly higher levels of activity, while the development of guidelines and provision of training tends to score a little lower.

Graph 3a: Overall average activity levels



The results per region are then given in Graph 3b on the right. This allows us to see, for example, that Asia-Oceania and North American respondents were relatively strongly focused on monitoring the situation around copyright and open access. North Americans also stood out for engagement in problem solving around copyright. MENA and Asia-Oceania respondents were most engaged in developing guidelines, while MENA ones stood out for their work on training. Sub-Saharan African respondents appeared most active around advocacy, while MENA ones (again) led on work in partnering. Meanwhile, LAC respondents tended to score least highly on each point, while Europe was somewhere in the middle.

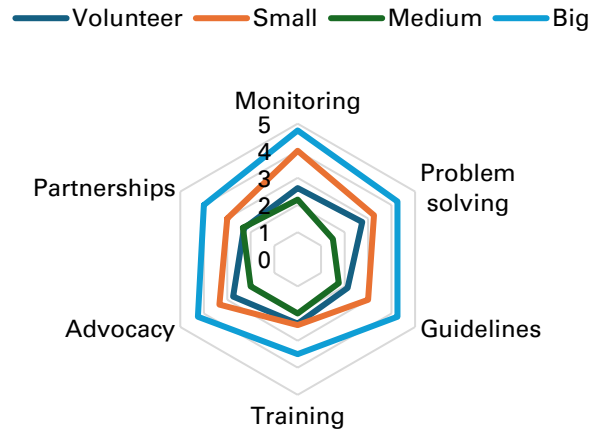
Graph 3b: Average Levels of Activity (by area and region)



We can perform the same analysis based on the size of association respondents (calculated in line with the number of staff reported, from volunteer only to 25+) (Graph 3c). Associations with over 10 members were counted as being big.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, bigger associations scored highest in their level of engagement across different aspects. What is more surprising is that 'small' associations, as well as purely volunteer-based ones, had higher scores on all aspects than medium-sized ones (those with 6-10 staff). Volunteer-led associations even reported more engagement in problem solving than small or medium-sized associations and were as likely to be involved in training as small, staffed associations.

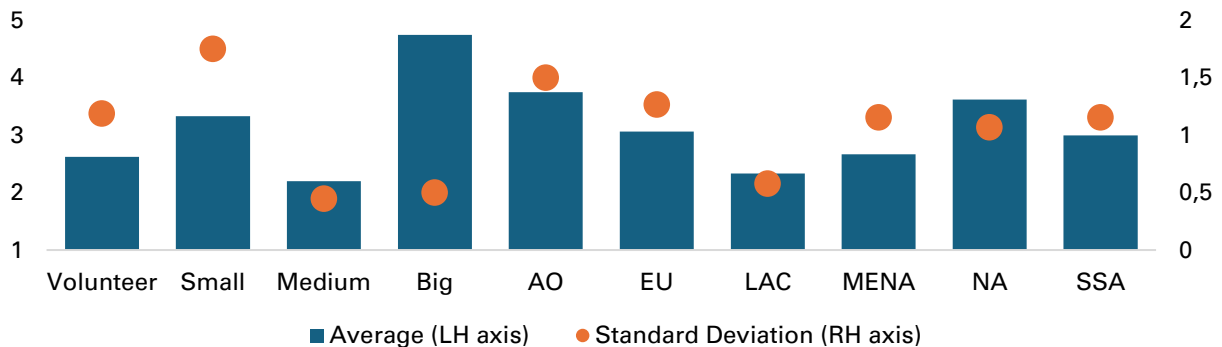
Graph 3c: Average levels of activity (by association size)



2a. Monitoring

Activities in this area relate to work to monitor the state of copyright and open access laws and policy. This is arguably important if associations are to be able

Graph 3a: Engagement in monitoring



to engage meaningfully in legislative processes – without this monitoring, opportunities are missed and efforts are not optimally focused. An overview of the results are in Graph 3a.

Looking at the overall scores (blue bars, with 1 indicating no activity and 5 indicating high levels of activity), we can see again that it is bigger associations, as well as Asia-Oceania and North American ones that are most active here. Medium-sized ones and those in Latin America and the Caribbean do less well. It is worth noting that the score for small associations covers a lot of variation (orange dots) – i.e. there is a mix of some highly engaged associations, and

some that are not particularly involved. Meanwhile, there is little variation when it comes to bigger associations (i.e. all of them are well involved), but quite a lot more in Asia-Oceania – some respondents are very involved, others much less for example.

We then asked how those associations who reported engaging in monitoring did so. The different types of responses provided for associations emphasised:

- Having access to a copyright specialist to monitor things (including retired librarians potentially)
- Drawing on the skills of the network (in countries with librarians with this specialism – in particular law librarians)
- Making monitoring a task for specific committees
- Build alliances with other organisations involved in monitoring (for example university organisations or consortia)

Some respondents mentioned that they had been successful in building their relationship with the government to the point that they received communication directly from them. To go a step further, libraries in some countries are recognised for their expertise. For example, in Australia the association has been invited to be on the steering committee of the government's AI and copyright working group, as well as in the Attorney General's copyright round tables. In the US, librarians were readily invited to participate in the copyright office's roundtable on the future of copyright.

As for answers from outside of associations, strategies for monitoring copyright included working through general counsels and scholarly communications offices, as well as own efforts. One respondent highlighted the potential of informal personal networks helping to fill gaps.

In some cases, respondents noted that there were a number of actors monitoring copyright, including the national library, interested individuals and the association. This does highlight the importance of sharing, and the potential value of a framework like the [Australian Libraries and Archives Copyright Coalition](#) (ALACC), the US [Libraries Copyright Alliance](#) (LCA) or the UK [Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance](#) (LACA) in order to avoid duplication and divide labour most effectively.

This collaboration doesn't need to have a name, such as in Finland, where libraires, archives and museums work together. Such bodies provide a space for sharing information, without preventing contributing organisations to do their own thing.

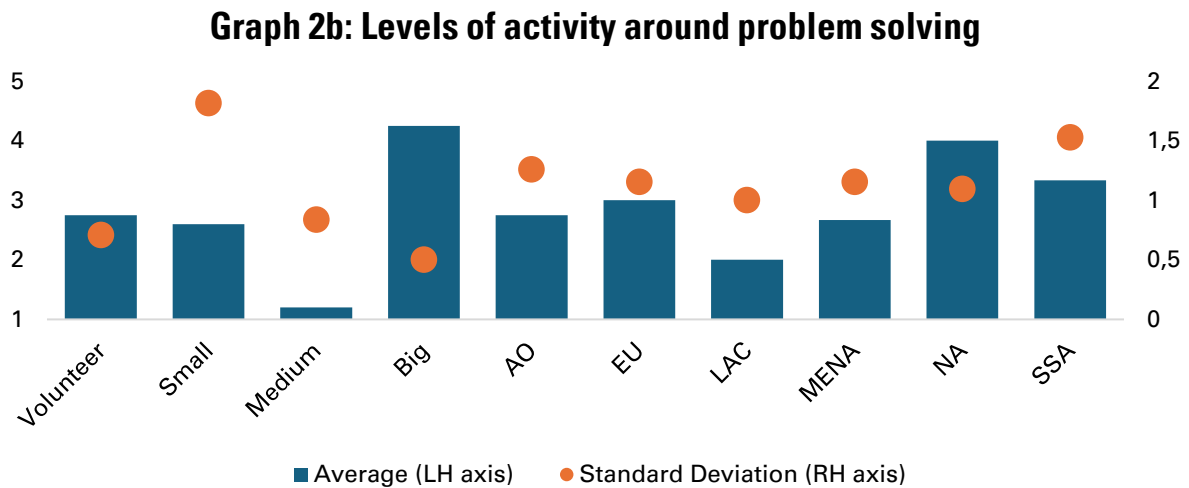
Those who reported that they were not very active around monitoring copyright and open access laws and policies were asked to share any further relevant information. Reasons given included:



- A lack of enforcement, meaning that copyright was not considered an issue to follow
- At a personal level, a lack of time for monitoring. At an association level, a lack of resources and interest from colleagues
- Low levels of activity in government around copyright
- A sense that copyright isn't a problem, at least for some library types

2b. Problem Solving

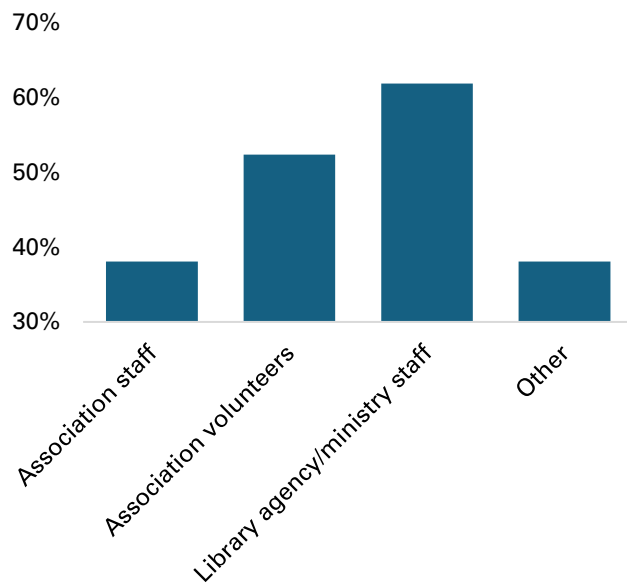
This second section of the survey went beyond monitoring and considered the (potential) role of library associations in providing direct support to library and information workers and institutions facing challenges and questions around copyright. Overall levels of activity are noted in Graph 2b.



Once again, bigger associations showed the highest rate of engagement in providing problem solving activities. There was also the lowest variation, indicating that most if not all agreed about this. North America also had a high level of activity here, but then with a lot more variation. Meanwhile, medium-sized and LAC associations were the least engaged in providing problem-solving services to members and others.

Of the 21 respondents who answered 'quite active', 'active' or 'very active', we then asked about who carried out the task of supporting problem solving, with respondents able to select as many answers as relevant. Graph 2ba shares the data as a percentage of the total active around problem-solving, with library agency or ministry staff most often the 'go-to' when library and information workers have questions or challenges. In over half of cases, association volunteers took on this role, while only in 38% of cases did association staff or others take this on.

Graph 2ba: How did respondents carry out problem-solving?



Among the 'other' responses, answers included library staff themselves (3x), collaborative organisations (2x, such as the Australian Libraries and Archives Copyright Coalition), non-profit advocacy organisations, community groups, and intellectual property offices.

Overall, it does not seem that there is any sort of correlation between association size and engagement here – understandably perhaps, association staff may not want to take on responsibility for providing solutions and advice.

In terms of terms of reference for the individuals or organisations fulfilling this function, many of the links are as previously shared (ALACC, LCA, LAC. Others included situations where there are government copyright commissions with a responsibility to resolve problems (such as in [Lithuania](#)). Elsewhere, as in Spain, there were more informal ways of responding to issues, based on interpretation of legislation.

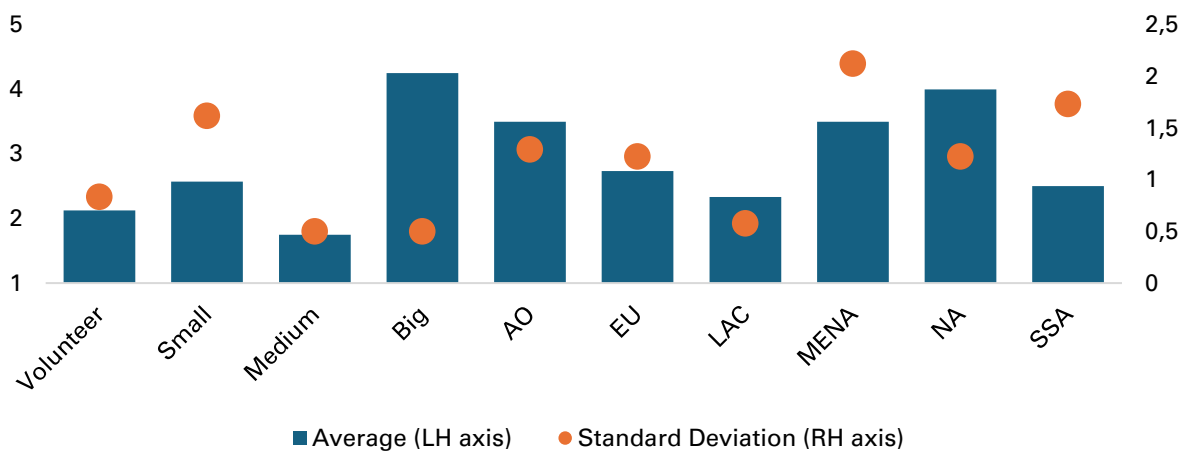
Looking outside of the responses given, countries like Bulgaria and Slovenia have networks of university library directors who work closely with an external expert, and who even run 'office hours' type sessions to respond to emerging issues. The American Library Association typically has a stall at its conference where people can come and ask questions also. Generally, news about work here tends to be shared via typical association channels such as newsletters, mailing lists and social media. There are examples like the [Copyseek](#) mailing list in the UK, or [Liblicense](#) in the US which provide a space for asking questions and sharing ideas too.

2c. Guidelines

This next section asked about work by associations to take a further step up from simply responding to problems raised, and rather proactively to develop codes, guidelines and other materials to help library and information workers work with copyright and information law and policy.

Graph 2c presents the spread of responses across different categories of respondents. Once again, it is larger associations that are most active around this, with a high level of consensus around this view. Interestingly, medium-sized associations were equally in agreement with each other, but this time in being not particularly active around this. North American associations were again most active here, with Asia-Oceania and Middle East and North African associations coming after this, and Latin America and the Caribbean being least

Graph 2c: Levels of activity around guidelines



active.

Overall, 18 respondents said that they were quite active, active or very active in providing guidelines. Graph 2ca sets out what share of these reported different actors being involved in preparing and maintaining guidelines for libraries.

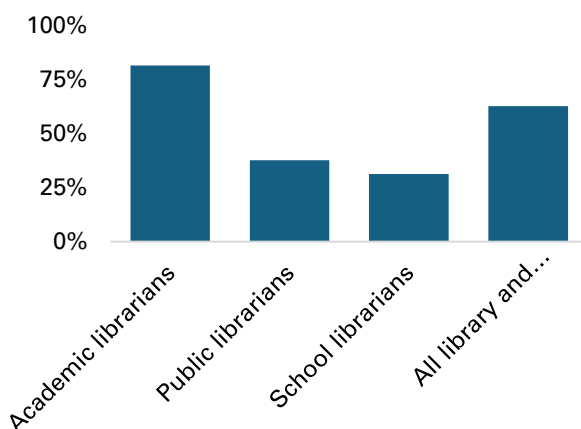
Most typically, these were prepared by individual librarians and experts, followed just behind by academic libraries (likely in the form of LibGuides). Library associations themselves are also producing guidelines in over 50% of cases cited.

Rarer sources of guidelines are library agencies and ministries, national libraries and collecting societies and rightholders. Others accounted for just 11% of cases, one of which pointed to cross-sectoral bodies such as ALACC, and the other to websites around rules on copying shared by governments.

Graph 2cb then shows who, where guidelines are available, is targeted. Most commonly, it is academic and research librarians (81%), followed by general guidance for all librarians. It is relatively rare to have guidelines just for public or school librarians.

This is perhaps understandable – academic librarians may need to navigate a more complex set of copyright questions, as well as need to work more directly with licences. In terms of how often guidelines were updated, 40% noted that this happened regularly, 40% said ‘occasionally’, and 20% did not know. While all bigger associations providing an answer said ‘regularly’ or ‘occasionally’, there was no clear pattern otherwise in responses by size.

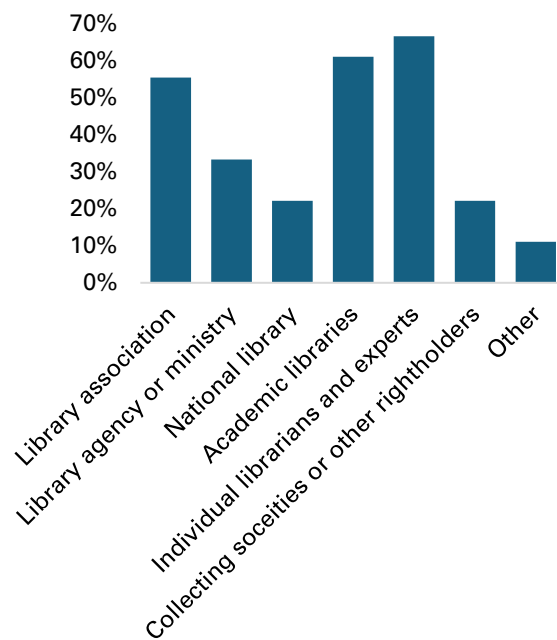
Graph 2cb: Who is targeted by guidelines?



Examples include initiatives around [how to work with copyrighted materials](#),

There are also focused guidelines, for example for use of [accessible materials libraries](#), of [specific research libraries](#), or for members of a [research libraries consortium](#). There is also general information on the national library website ([here](#) and [here](#)). The latter guidelines work through providing practical examples. Our Estonian respondent pointed to the guidance on the [National Library website](#).

Graph 2ca: Who is producing guidelines?



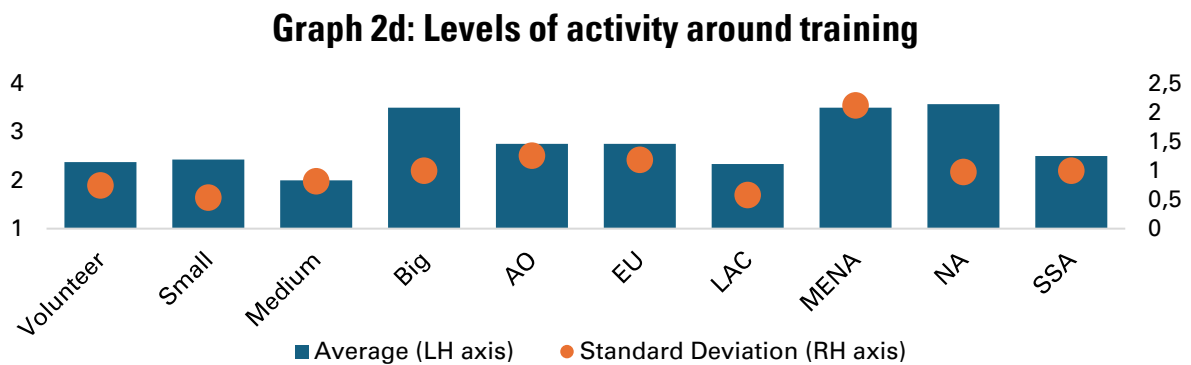
In terms of links provided to association materials, most were to the same sources as shared previously. Additional ones pointed to the [legal information](#) shared by the German Library Association, and to the [Ocean](#) project in the US, which also offers webinars.

One respondent from Lithuania noted that quite a lot had been done in the context of projects. It was positive to have the opportunity to create materials, but the risk then was that they were not updated.

We also asked those who reported that there weren't any guidelines available to share any reasons for this. Once again, resources were a key issue, as was a failure to give any one actor the responsibility to create such materials (or they had the responsibility but then hadn't done anything). Sometimes, associations did not create materials because they were already available, for example from the national library. Finally, one respondent suggested that in some cases there was a readiness to follow the guidance set out by rightholders directly.

2d Training

The next section of the survey looked at how far respondent associations were involved in providing training programmes around copyright and information law, policy and practice. This represents a further step from reactive problem solving and proactive development of guidelines. Graph 2d provides an



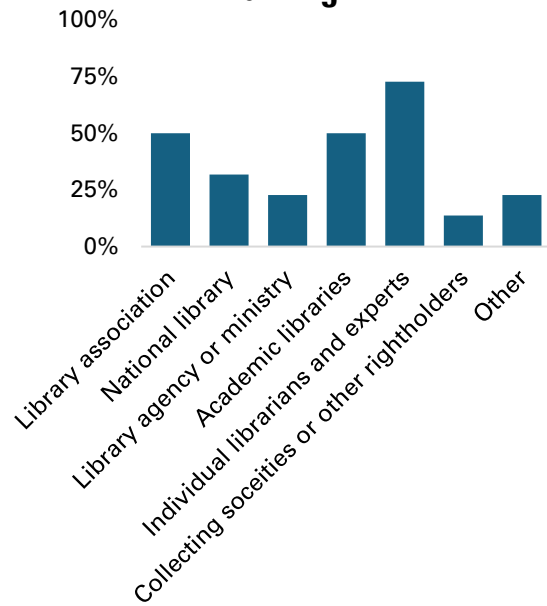
overview of the responses here.

From this, once again, we can see that bigger associations are most active, although this time there is a higher level of variation in responses, indicating different approaches. At the regional level, North America and MENA together stand out, although with more variation in the MENA response. Nonetheless, it should be noted that the scores here are generally lower than for other aspects of working around copyright. Overall, 22 respondents noted that associations were quite active, active, or very active in providing training.

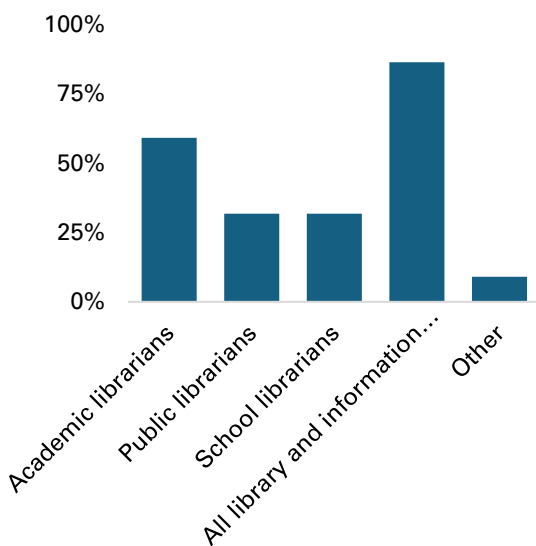
Graph 2da then looks at who is providing this training. Amongst those reporting training happening, it was individual librarians and experts who were most commonly involved (73% of the time), followed by associations and academic libraries (each half of the time). National libraries, library agencies, and collecting societies also all featured.

Amongst the examples for others, we had cross-sectoral bodies like ALACC, NGOs, copyright associations, individual consultants and community groups. Looking at comparisons between different sizes of associations, it appears that large associations were much readier to provide training in-house, although also relied on individuals. Meanwhile, other sizes of associations relied more readily on others.

Graph 2da: Who offers training?



Graph 2db: Who is targeted by training?



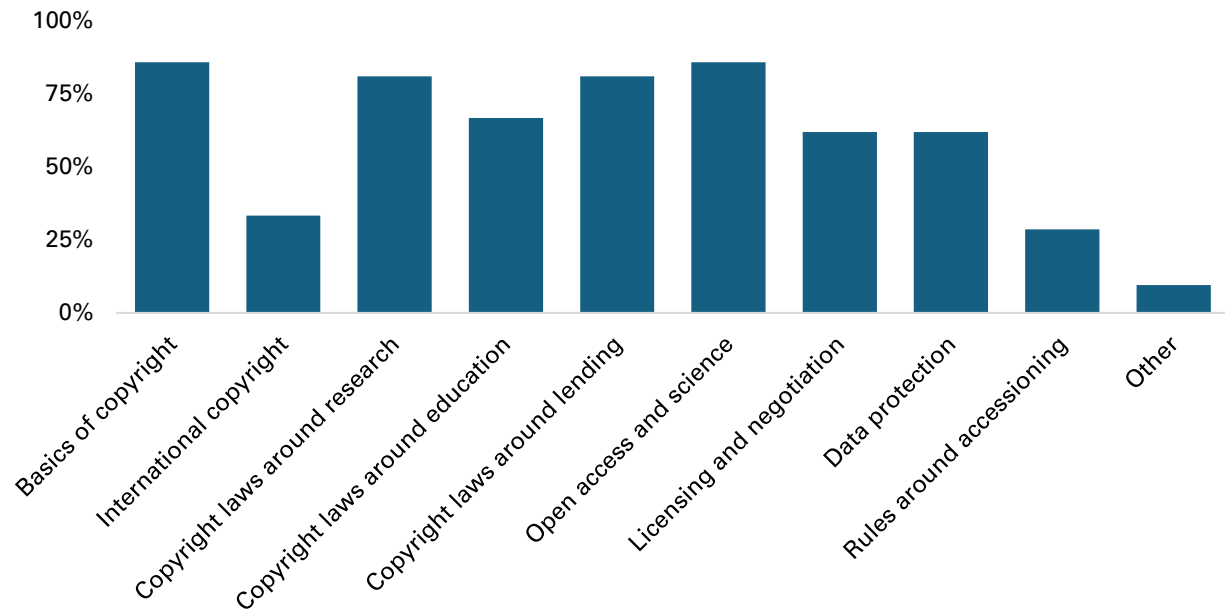
Graph 2db then shares how those respondents who did report that training was happening said that this was then targeted. By some way, the most common response was that training was intended for all library and information workers – 86% - with that specifically for academic librarians next on 59%.

Other types of librarians were less likely to be specifically targeted, with less than a third responses pointing to each of public and school librarians. Amongst those answering others, one noted that training was focused on anyone working with data, and the other that it was for library and information

science students.

Breaking down the results by association size, larger ones tended to offer support to a fuller range of colleagues, with both general and focused training available, while smaller or volunteer-led associations tended (where they were active) to look more at general training. However, there were some exceptions where it was possible to mobilise volunteers effectively.

Graph 2dc: What does training cover?



Graph 2d then looks at which topics are covered in training courses offered, with the bars representing the share of the total number of respondents answering this question (21). The basics of copyright and open access and science came top with 86% of respondents, followed a little behind (81%) by copyright and research, and copyright and lending. Copyright and education came further back (67%), and licensing and negotiation, and data protection further still at 62%. International copyright and rules around accessioning were least commonly selected, while under 'other', the two suggestions received focused on copyright and new technologies. On average, training covered six different themes, with no obvious pattern between smaller or larger associations.

As for how frequently training materials were updated, over half answered 'frequently' or 'very frequently', 43% said occasionally and 10% didn't know. All bigger associations updated materials regularly, with others doing so either regularly or occasionally (if the respondent knew).

Respondents were then asked to share more about their training. Key points included:

- Use of external consultants to run programming on behalf of the association (such as CILIP's work with [Naomi Korn Associates](#) in the UK).
- Some managed to offer in-person classroom training, potentially combining these with online materials. Others noted a variety of opportunities, including webinars, individual or group training and more.
- International training tended to be online but then fell down both on language and the relevance of the content to local librarians.



- Sometimes training happened in the context of projects, or in response to an emerging issue.
- In the UK, there are regional (as well as professional) copyright communities bringing together academic librarians which organise training and events.

Specific examples included training offered by the [Lithuanian Research Library Consortium](#) and the [Vilnius County Library](#). There is also the work done by Jane Secker and Chris Morrison ([website](#)), including discussion lists, educational games, and a monthly free webinar to explore copyright issues. They also run an annual conference, with the support of relevant national library association committee.

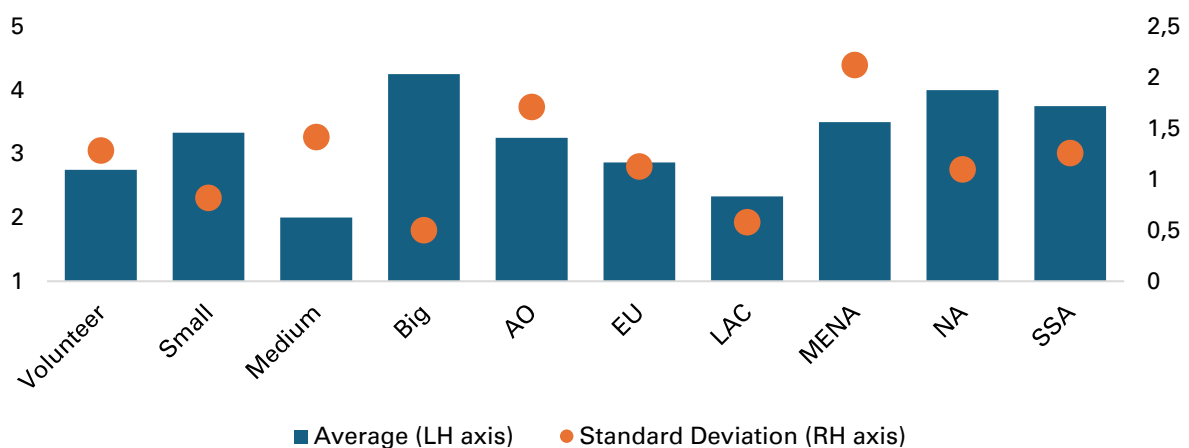
In the US in particular, there are courses available, such as [Copyright X](#) (run annually), [Copyright First Responders](#) (offered by members of a national network, on a more responsive basis), [Creative Commons Certificates](#) (which tend to be broader, and of course focused on CC licences) and materials on [Coursera](#) for example.

As for those who didn't report being engaged in providing training, reasons given included again a lack of resources, and a lack of any one actor having a clear mandate to provide training.

2e Advocacy

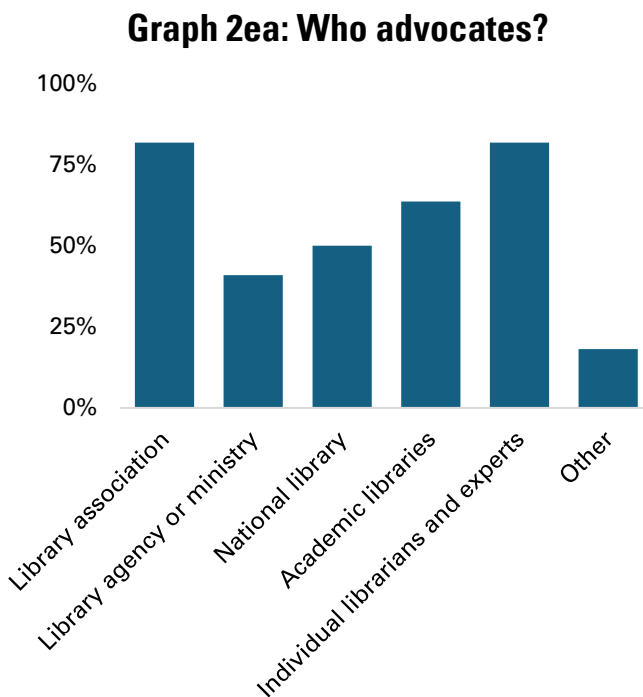
The fifth section of the survey looked at how far libraries were active in advocating around copyright and information law, policy and practice. The overall results from this are provided in graph 2e:

Graph 2e: Levels of activity around advocacy



Again, it is larger association that are most active, with an average score of 4.25 out of 5. Small associations also score more than 3. Across regions, North Americans are most active, followed by Sub-Saharan Africa this time. MENA comes third, but with a high rate of variation in responses – some are very

active, others not very active at all. Overall, 22 respondents noted that their association or field was quite active, active, or very active.



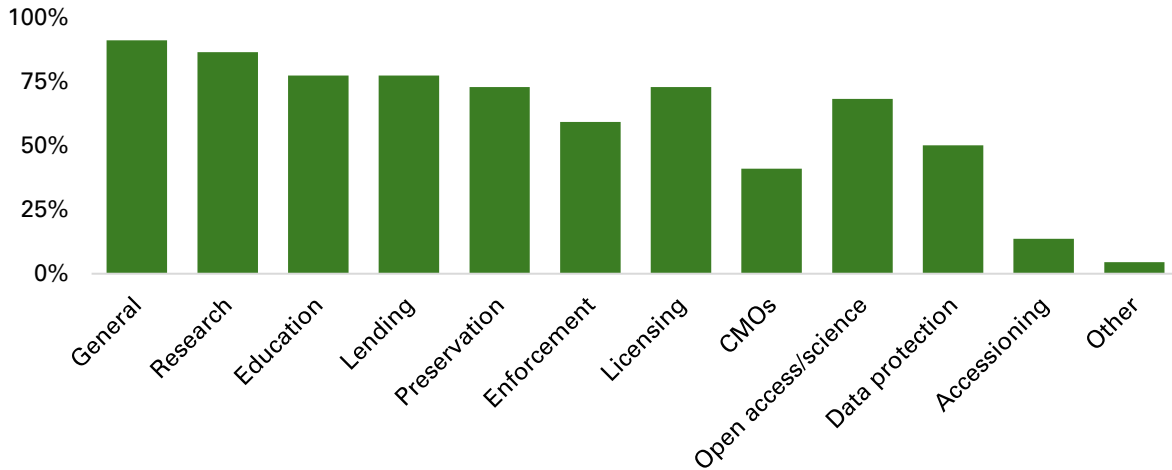
Looking at who is engaged in advocacy work around copyright, of the 22 relevant responses here, 82% pointed to their association as being the entity involved here. The same share indicated that individual librarians and experts took the lead.

Next on the list came academic libraries (64%), then national libraries (50%), and then library agencies or ministries (41%). The latter score is understandable, given that public agencies and ministries may find it more difficult to advocate. Answers provided under 'other' included

cross-sectoral bodies again, university consortia and organisations, and non-profits.

While all big association respondents were involved in copyright advocacy, it was also common for medium, small or volunteer-based associations to be engaged also. There were no regional trends that allow any particular conclusions – each region had actors engaged in advocacy, with MENA the only one saying that this was led by a library agency rather than an association.

Graph 2eb: What do we advocate about?



Graph 2eb then looks at the topics on which those respondents reporting quite active, active, or very active advocacy focused. 91% said that they talked about copyright in general, while 86% talked about copyright and research, 77% each about copyright and education and copyright and lending, and the 73% about copyright and preservation. The same share also reported advocating about licensing.

Just over 2/3 were active in advocating on open access/science, and a few fewer on copyright enforcement and data protection. The only topics which appeared in less than 50% of cases were the behaviour of collective management organisations (CMOs) and accessioning.

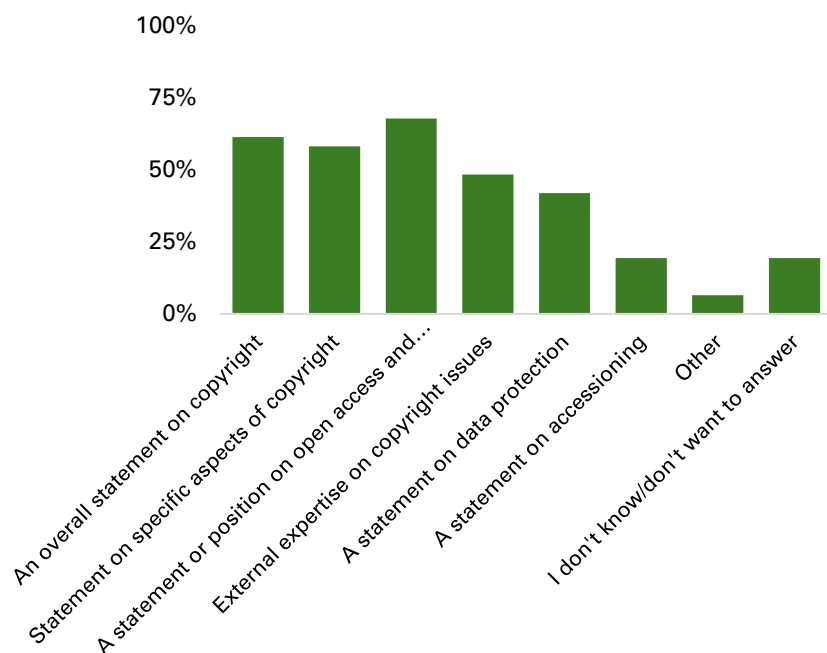
Looking at how different sizes of association responses, big associations appeared to have a wider range of issues on which they worked than the smaller ones. As for regions, there was again no clear pattern in place – both ‘richer’ and ‘poorer’ regions had both associations with broad remits and those with narrow ones.

Graph 2eb then looks at what standard texts or tools are in place which can support advocacy. Overall, there were 31 responses to this question.

Most common was a statement or position paper on open access (68%), followed by an overall statement on copyright (61%). Statements on specific aspects of copyright came in on 58%. It was less common to have

statements on data protection and accessioning. Responses provided under 'other' focused rather on the field being crowded and competitive (at least in some countries). Finally, 48% of respondents said that they had access to external expertise to support in their advocacy work. Looking at association size, larger associations were slightly more likely to have more such tools, while European and North American ones reported also the highest number of these on average.

Graph 2eb: What copyright advocacy tools do you have?



Respondents who said that there was activity around copyright advocacy could then share more information. Comments included:

- Broader concern about the accessibility of copyright legal texts to non-specialists
- The need to ensure that wider library associations are disseminating the work of their copyright groups, so that when statements are prepared, they can also be known
- The specific example of association advocacy shared here was from the [Canadian Association of Research Libraries](#)
- The importance of gathering relevant information, such as the fees being charged to public libraries by collecting societies. By collecting and sharing this, it was possible to negotiate a better rate.

As for those respondents who said they were not active around advocacy, reasons shared for this included:

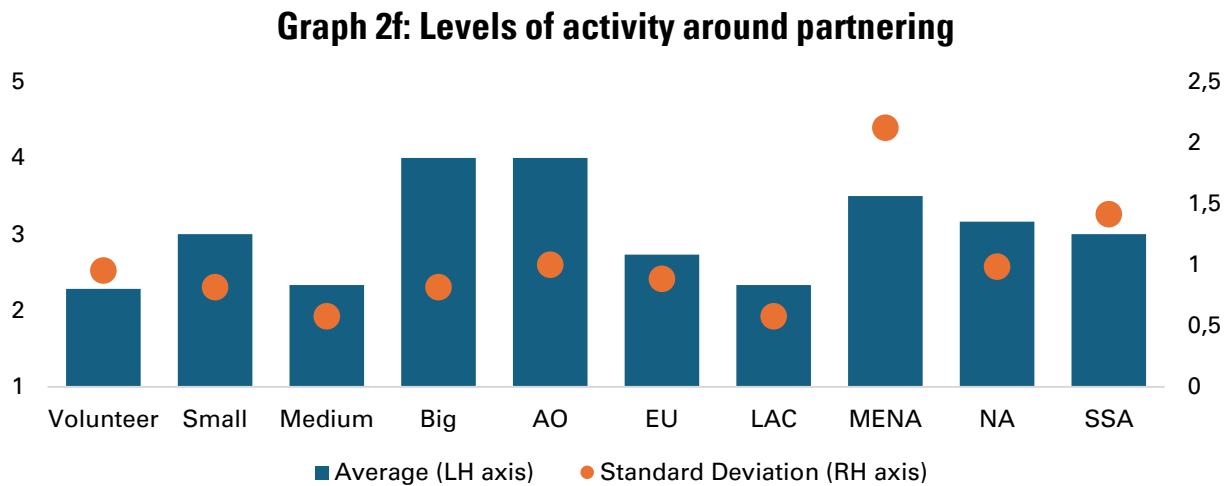


- A lack of anyone having a specific mandate, or simply not fulfilling this
- A sense that international associations should be doing the job
- The difficulty of getting people with both advocacy skills and copyright knowledge
- The cost of using external expertise (and resource issues in general)

2f Partnering

The final section looked at how far library associations and fields were active in partnering with other organisations and stakeholders around copyright and information law, policy and practice. This recognises that the interests of libraries are often shared with others, and given this, there are possibilities for alliances. In parallel, there can be scope for building positive relationships with actors who may risk opposing the sort of steps that libraries may advocate for.

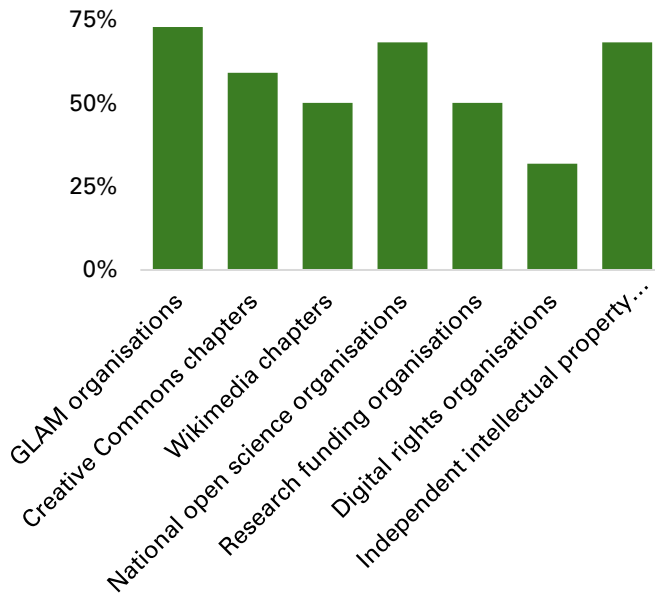
An overview of the results is provided in Graph 2f:



According to these results, once again it is larger associations that are most active, followed by small ones. Asia-Oceania stands out for its overall level of partnership activity. There is also only so much variation in responses, suggesting a measure of consensus. MENA respondents come next, but with much higher variation. The scores in general are a little lower than for advocacy, but higher, for example, than for training.

Overall, 22 respondents said that libraries were quite active, active, or very active in forming partnerships.

Graph 2fa: With whom do you partner?



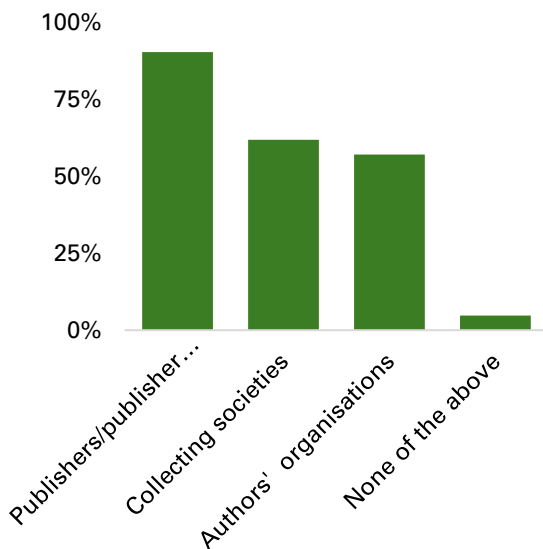
Graph 2fa then looks at with which organisations libraries are most likely to partner on the 'user rights' side (i.e. interested in what works for users and the public interest).

Most common is collaboration with other GLAM (galleries, libraries, archives, museums) organisations, followed by national open science organisations and independent intellectual property experts and groups. All of these are mentioned in more than 2/3 of cases. Creative Commons chapters are also referenced in over half of cases, and then Wikimedia chapters and

research funding organisations in precisely half. It is least likely that libraries are collaborating with digital rights organisations around copyright issues.

There was no particular pattern of how many of such relationships there were according to association size, while among regions, Sub-Saharan Africa stood out for the average number of partnerships that libraries enjoyed.

Graph 3fb: With whom do you partner? (pro-copyright organisations)



Graph 3fb turns to relationships with organisations which, at least in the context of copyright debates, can risk ending up on the other side of the discussion due to desires to protect and maximise protections.

Of the 21 who answered this question, 90% had connections with publishers or publisher organisations, while around 60% each had links with collecting societies and authors' organisations.

There was no obvious connection between the size of an association and the partnerships it had, while Latin American respondents were most likely to have a wide range of such partnerships, with MENA ones least.

As for additional comments provided, these highlighted:

- The value of connections with potentially opponents is clear, allowing for joint positions in some cases – this can be the case, for example, around [AI as in Australia](#)
- It has been possible in some cases to come to useful consensus around, for example, digital delivery in interlibrary loan or the use of book covers in catalogues
- In some cases, there was a habit of issuing invitations to each other's conferences and holding panel discussions and exchanges
- It was easier for some library types than others to cooperate, and potential opponents tended to have more resourcing for lawyers and lobbyists

A final question asked for anything that respondents could share about their work to measure the impact of their work around copyright. Responses shared highlighted:

- The value of celebrating successes, as well as using other metrics of engagement such as numbers involved in training, or visiting websites
- Given the pace of copyright reform, it was necessary to think about impact metrics over time, allowing for changes in personnel and leadership.

There is specific work looking less at the impact of advocacy, but of the degree to which there is anxiety about working with copyright, and what this does to behaviours. This is being carried out by a UK-Canadian team, with more available [online](#).

4. Further references

TL; DR: in almost every region, there are examples of library associations which have found ways to engage effectively around copyright, from named leads in Headquarters or committees, to more informal (but equally effective) networks. Many pool resources with like-minded organisations to maximise impact.

This session brings together examples from library associations around the world, both drawing on the information shared via the survey, and independent research using association websites. This does not pretend to be a complete list and so could be updated in future. It is intended to help any association reflecting on how to upgrade their engagement around copyright to find inspiration from peers.

Argentina: The Association of Qualified Librarians of Argentina (ABGRA) has a [broader committee](#) looking at legislation and freedom of access to information. This engages on copyright related issues (such as the Treaty of Marrakesh) when there is a need to do so.

Australia: the [Australian Library and Information Association](#) does not have its own copyright committee (although it does have internal capacity at its headquarters with the deputy CEO leading on relevant work), and has engaged notably in discussions with publishers in order to secure agreements on particular practices, as well as to promote inclusive publishing.

Much work however is channelled through the [Australian Libraries and Archives Copyright Coalition](#), which also brings together National and State Libraries Australia, the Council of Australian University Libraries, the Australian School Library Association, the Australian Society of Archivists, the Council of Australasian Archives and Records Authorities, the Public Library Association of New South Wales, the Australian Government Libraries Information Network and the Australian Law Librarians' Association. It provides all free resources around copyright law, training for librarians and archivists, monitoring of current developments, and advocacy (sometimes working alongside the Australian Digital Alliance).

Belgium: in Flanders, the association carries out its engagement in advocacy through its participation in the [Copyright and Society Collaborative](#), from the university, culture and public libraries, heritage, archives and national library sector. It has a goal of developing expertise and engaging both with government and potential partners in order to make the case for better suited copyright laws and the protection of the public domain.

Brazil: the Federation of Brazilian Library Associations has a [Copyright and Open Access Commission](#) with a mandate to get involved in legislative change (representing the field), to monitor developments, to develop guidelines and other information to build awareness, to support problem solving in the field, and to provide a space for learning and development.

Canada: the Canadian Association of Research Libraries has a dedicated [landing page](#) on copyright. This summarises the Association's positions, as well as sharing examples of codes of good practice and training materials, both from itself and from others. There is a [Copyright Community of Practice](#) with over 50 members, and which meets around twice a year, supported by a [visiting programme officer](#) on copyright and other policy matters, as well as a wider [Policy and Advocacy Committee](#).

Chile: The Association of Chilean Librarians has a [committee for law libraries, intellectual property and copyright](#). Concerning copyright, this has the mission to build awareness around copyright, to promote good practice in use, and to engage in advocacy.

Croatia: The Croatian Library Association has a [Copyright and Open Access Commission](#). This has a mission to monitor developments nationally and internationally, to communicate about copyright to the wider library

community, to provide guidance (including translations), to hold events and training sessions, to advise the Association as a whole, and to support the field in adapting relevant library strategies.

Czechia: the Czech Library Association has an [open science working group](#), and has a mission to monitor trends, to build awareness and knowledge in the field, and to engage on relevant copyright issues.

Denmark: the Danish Library Association does not have a copyright committee, although is able to [respond to consultations](#) and calls for evidence when needed. The Danish Higher Education Libraries Association has a [forum for the dissemination of copyright](#). This has been operational for 12 years and organises thematic days to explore different aspects of copyright. It has a mission to build knowledge of copyright in the session and to advise the Board on relevant issues.

Germany: the German Library Association (DBV) maintains a [thematic page](#) around copyright. It also has a [Legal Committee](#) which has a broad mission including to provide training, to organise events and lectures, to provide expert opinions and statements, and to help with problem solving.

Hong Kong (China): the Hong King Library Association does not appear to have a dedicated committee but has produced a [statement](#) on Public Lending Right in the past.

Ireland: the Library Association of Ireland has an [Open Scholarship Group](#), with a remit to raise awareness of open scholarship principles, to provide information and guidance, to support cooperation in promoting open scholarship, to map knowledge, and to scan the horizon.

Italy: the Italian Library Association has a [Study Group on Information Policies](#), and looks at a broad range of issues from censorship, information skills and copyright. It is there as a discussion space, and a basis for taking actions to address legislative and market problems. Linked to this, the association maintains a [list of relevant resources](#) on copyright, and works with external experts, including training materials.

Lithuania: the association does not have a copyright committee but has access to individuals who are recognised as having an expertise. There is also a strong network of copyright experts across research institutions and the national library who can help develop positions and respond to events effectively.

Mexico: AMBAC has a [Section on Information Policy](#) with a broad remit to look at a variety of laws affecting access to information. Through this, it monitors laws, analyses and interprets them and their implications, and produces insights and events that help share knowledge about these.

New Zealand: the Library and Information Association of New Zealand – Te Aotearoa has a [copyright standing committee](#) made up of six members, from a mixture of public and academic libraries, as well as the national library and a museum. It prepares training materials, advice and guidelines on interpreting the law, statements on specific topics, and advice to members. It also engages in advocacy for copyright reform, notably that resulting from free trade agreements.

Russia: the Russian Library Association has a [general legislative committee](#) that focuses on a variety of bodies of law, but does not appear to have dedicated competence around copyright.

South Africa: the Library and Information Association of South Africa does not have a dedicated copyright committee, but works through individual volunteers who organise webinars and other [events](#) aimed at building understanding across the community. Meanwhile the Association also brings together the Copyright Officers of different institutions with one of its own Board members, and benefits from a retired copyright expert who can inform and advise the board. The association also works with the Recreate coalition in the context of the ongoing copyright reform.

Spain: the cross-sectoral Spanish Federation of Archive, Library, Information, Documentation and Museum Associations (FESABID) has a dedicated [committee working on intellectual property](#). It has been working since 1996 and aims to promote IP laws that work for libraries and other GLAM institutions. It carries out research and advocacy work, as well as education, community development and communication. Recent projects have focused on the transparency of collective management organisations, controlled digital lending, and advocacy for copyright reform.

Sweden: The Swedish Library Association has an [Expert Network for Libraries and Copyright](#), with a mission to raise understanding in the field, find solutions to copyright-related issues, and to monitor developments in the field nationally and at a European level.

Switzerland: Bibliosuisse has a [Legal Affairs Committee](#), looking both at copyright and data protection. In this, it has a legal and political monitoring role, and a mandate to make recommendations to the board if necessary. It can also propose training on legal questions.

Uganda: the association benefits from a volunteer who supports in reflection on copyright and enables it to form positions and engage.

United Kingdom: the UK Library Association, CILIP, does not have a dedicated copyright committee, but has competence at its HQ with the CEO and a Senior

Officer able to work on this. It also supports the work of the [Copyright Literacy](#) initiative through its [Information Literacy group](#). It also works with an external supplier to offer copyright training, and to organise an [annual copyright conference](#). Separately, the [Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance](#) engages strongly in work around advocacy and engaging in legislative reform.

United States: The [American Library Association](#) (ALA) is strongly involved on copyright issues, maintaining a core page with core positions, relevant statements and resources. The Association carries out advocacy, both directly and working with others (in particular the Association of Research Libraries, through the Libraries Copyright Alliance (see below), and working with a wider range of organisations through the [Re:create Coalition](#)). ALA has its [Copyright Legislation, Education and Advocacy Network](#) (CLEAN) which supports in defining positions, developing education and broader communication.

The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) (which also has Canadian members) also has a [landing page](#) on copyright, which includes guidelines on the law in place. ARL produces policy and discussion papers, plus links to third party materials. It has an [Advocacy and Public Policy Committee](#) which has a broad brief on all policy and legislative issues, which is the parent committee to a [task force](#) on Marrakesh Treaty implementation. This works practically to establish how to support cross-border exchange of accessible format works.

The [Library Copyright Alliance](#) brings together ALA and ARL in order to carry out advocacy work, including amicus curiae briefs. Meanwhile, the [OCEAN alliance](#) brings together actors interested in copyright education in order to develop and provide training.

Internationally, the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres has a dedicated [copyright committee](#). This has a mandate to monitor developments around copyright and advise the board, to support policy development, and to advocate for the association's community internationally. It also has a mission to share relevant guidance and materials and cooperate with other organisations. It notably has produced a number of statements, has carried out research projects, and has responded to consultations.

It is also worth referring to the work of [EIFL](#), which in a number of partner countries has a copyright coordinator. These are trained by EIFL's central team and can then support work to advocate for copyright reform domestically. They typically work alongside open access coordinators who both support the work of consortia and wider training and engage in the development of open science plans.

The survey also brought in some information about the role of copyright officers within institutions. These, for example, acted as a hub of expertise, advising

others, developing tools, and building strategies for working optimally within the law.

5. Discussion and Conclusion

As underlined in the introduction, the goal of this report has been to provide a basis for library associations and others to reflect on what the possibilities are to engage (more) around copyright. Through this, the ambition is to ensure that both government regulation and wider market practices better enable libraries to fulfil their mission, and to get better value for money from their spending on content.

It comes through relatively clearly that larger associations (those with over 10 employees) are consistently engaged around copyright, either through a dedicated committee or staff member. They also appear to have the ability to engage over a wider range of specific issues within copyright.

However – and this is more relevant for the likely audience of this report – the more important message is that engagement in copyright is also entirely possible and feasible for smaller associations too, including those that are purely volunteer run.

There are a wide variety of methods available for doing this, ranging from the formal (allocating part of a staff-member's time, or having a committee consider copyright amongst other things), to working less formally across networks. Indeed, stepping outside of a committee logic, and rather focusing on building a network of people in relevant positions (such as in research libraries or wider systems) seems also to work.

In this regard, the fact that licensing is the most regularly cited priority for respondents – an issue that can affect all library types – such networks do not need to be limited to research libraries.

Another key finding is how far cross-sectoral collaboration is advanced in a number of countries. In some cases, formal organisations have been created, of which library associations themselves are members, and which can carry out specific tasks ranging from advocacy alone to the full range of activities. In other cases, meetings are more informal but provide a structure in particular for monitoring and advocacy work.

In terms of the specific activities carried out, many of the examples highlighted, in particular in section 4, show that the committees or groups responsible for copyright do carry out work across the board. They monitor, address problems, offer guidelines and training, advocate, and lead in partnerships. The survey data backs this up to an extent too, with monitoring and advocacy seeing slightly higher levels of advocacy than others.

In short, there is plenty of experience to build on.

In a final note, it is worth noting that the data shared also includes a breakdown by region. It is hard to draw firm conclusions around the situation in each region given the relatively small pool of responses, but it does appear that more can be done to support the development of copyright capacity outside of North America.

This is not to say that copyright is a purely North American concern – witness the ongoing struggles in South Africa, but also the high scores for MENA on a number of aspects. However, it does point to a potential role for IFLA’s Advisory Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters in supporting learning not just about what copyright is, but also how libraries can engage effectively around it.