

" Tiflolibros is submitting this comments in reply to the comments submitted by Jane C. Ginsburg and June M. Besek of Columbia University School of Law on November 13 2009"

Buenos Aires, 23 November 2009

Kareem A. Dale
Special Assistant to the President for Disability Policy:
Via email: Kareem_A._Dale@who.eop.gov

Re: Support for the WIPO treaty to facilitate access and sharing of works for people with reading disabilities

Dear Mr. Dale:

My name is Pablo Lecuona and I am the president and co-funder of Tiflolibros, an online library for Spanish speaking blind and reading disabled persons based in Argentina.

I am writing to ask for the United States government's support for a WIPO treaty to facilitate access and sharing of works for people with reading disabilities.

Tiflolibros has the largest collection of spanish works in accessible formats for Spanish speaking persons in the world. At present, 92 percent of new Spanish language accessible works produced by Tiflolibros are done under our national copyright exception, 5.5 percent are books that are in the public domain, and only 2.5 percent are produced under voluntary licenses from copyright owners.

Most of the accessible works produced in the United States are available only on English. I believe there are more than 28 million people in the United States that speak Spanish at home. For Spanish speaking persons with reading disabilities, there are relatively few books available in accessible formats.

If the WIPO Treaty for people with reading disabilities is enacted, Tiflolibros will be able to share more than 45,000 Spanish language works in accessible formats with people who are blind or have other reading disabilities living in the United States.

Tiflolibros would also be able to share its extensive collections of accessible Spanish language works with other countries, including but not limited to the eighteen Spanish speaking countries in Latin America, including the many countries where accessible works are extremely scarce.

If the WIPO Copyright treaty fails, Tiflolibros will legally only be able to share approximately 6,000 works with persons living outside of Argentina.

It is a human rights imperative for all Spanish speaking persons around the world that the treaty succeeds, so that Tiflolibros can share all of its accessible works with other countries, and Argentina can import works we do not have from the United States, Spain and other countries with large collections.

Sincerely,

Pablo Lecuona

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