

Documentation standards and intellectual property:
defining guidelines for museums libraries and archives

(Abstract)

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France: World Intellectual Property Organisation

Reflecting upon standardization and documentation models could hardly dispense with considering the intellectual property rights attached to the safeguarding of the material. As museums, archives and libraries digitize their collections, the need for specific tools to be developed and sui generis measures to be considered, is more pressing. Furthermore, the process to record, document, make widely accessible and compile inventories of the world's intangible cultural heritage imposes new demands on documentation praxis.

Various intellectual property issues emerging in this context, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is currently undertaking initial research and consultations in museums libraries and archives. The project aims at mapping current practices, identifying IP issues and concerns, and clarifying options. Based on the full range of experiences surveyed, further consultations and wide inputs, this project aims in the longer term at the development of IP-related guidelines for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion and protection of creative intellectual activity and for facilitating the transfer of technology in order to accelerate economic, social and cultural development. It has 183 Member States (as at May 17, 2006), who decide on, direct and monitor its program activities.