

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES
EDITEURS
INTERNATIONALE VERLEGER -
UNION



INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHERS
ASSOCIATION
UNION INTERNACIONAL DE
EDITORES



International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

International Publishers and Librarians launch Joint Statement on Article Removal from Databases

6 July 2005

At a recent meeting of the Joint Steering Group of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the International Publishers' Association (IPA), the two organisations agreed on a statement on the removal of articles from electronic databases.

In the statement, both agree that it is best practice that articles which the publisher has withdrawn, or for legal reasons may no longer make available or distribute, shall still be stored both by publishers and, under certain circumstances, by libraries. Libraries should also be entitled to request copies of published articles when they have been taken down at a later stage, to have a full record of what had been published.

Herman P. Spruijt, publisher and joint Chairman of the IFLA-IPA Steering Group, declares: "In a print environment publishers have developed careful practices about withdrawal of published articles. With today's many online databases, publishers must not only make sure that these databases are fully up to date, but must also manage the historical published records adequately. Publishers give the 'removal of articles' much thought, but cannot establish a clear policy on their own. This declaration can give guidance for the fine-tuning of such policies."

Claudia Lux, librarian and joint Chairperson of the Steering Group, adds: "For libraries, it is not only important to have access to current and up-to-date databases. As custodians of the published record, we must also be able to manage access to works that are no longer available to the public. Libraries understand that such articles must be kept safely and treated with caution, but we have experience in dealing with such content."

Both organisations see this declaration as an important milestone. This joint statement is not the end of the discussion about article removal, but a contribution that will help both sides understand how they can interact in an area where the technology of constantly updated databases creates a new, shared responsibility for the published record. We look forward to the further debate.

Further information from:

Alexis Krikorian, IPA, 3, avenue de Miremont CH-1206, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 346 30 18 - Fax: +41 22 347 57 17. Email: krikorian@ipa-ue.org

Peter Lor, IFLA, PO Box 95312, 2509 CH, The Hague, Netherlands
Tel: +31 70 3140884 - Fax: +31 70 3834827. Email: ifla@ifla.org

Notes for editors:

IFLA is the global voice of the library and information profession. Established in 1927, it has celebrated its 75th anniversary at its annual conference in Glasgow, Scotland in August 2002. IFLA currently has more than 1,750 members in over 150 countries. More information can be found on the IFLA website @ www.ifla.org

IPA represents the publishing industry worldwide through 78 national, regional and specialised publishers associations in 68 countries. Established in 1896, IPA was founded to promote the lifeblood of publishing: Copyright protection and freedom to publish, internationally. IPA is an accredited Non-Governmental Organisation enjoying a consultative status to the United Nations. For more about IPA, please see: www.ipa-uie.org

-