PUTTING RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FIRST

Why we need to make sure that research and researchers are not collateral damage in wider policy reforms, and how we might go about achieving this?

3 ISSUES

RESEARCH IS NOT JUST A RESEARCH POLICY ISSUE!

As research increasingly takes place online and across borders, it - and the infrastructures that facilitate it - are more and more influenced by a range of policies.

Key issues around wider copyright reform, the regulation of digital platforms, telecommunications, competition and anti-trust and beyond can all have an impact, even though they sit outside of ‘traditional’ research (or education policy). Together, they represent a wider field of policy where we need to focus.

BUT LIBRARY AND RESEARCH VOICES ARE NOT BEING HEARD

Libraries tend to focus on immediate funding issues, while those engaged in open access and open science engage most readily with research ministries and funders.

Yet the research sector - and libraries in particular - are not always focused on these other area. We do not necessarily have the contacts, knowledge and language to engage. Even when we are, we are too often dependent on a small number of individuals, putting unfair pressure on them, and jeopardising sustainability.

SO DECISION-MAKERS ARE NOT THINKING RESEARCH

Decision-makers in these other areas may think about business, consumers, and perhaps broader human rights issues, but they aren’t thinking about research or education, and may not even be aware of what their decisions mean.

Analysis of impact assessments of recent EU digital legislation demonstrates that harm to open access infrastructures is not sufficiently accounted for! Yet this at worst risks making research and education into collateral damage, and at best treats them piecemeal.

2 WAR STORIES

EU Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market (DSM): Risked placing the same liabilities for user-uploaded content on OA and OER repositories as on YouTube. The Impact Assessment failed to consider this, and it took significant lobbying to ensure an exemption

EU Digital Services Act (DSA): The EU again failed to consider impacts of new platform regulation on repositories, despite the example from DSM. During negotiations, efforts were made to ensure a clear waiver, but none was offered, leaving a situation of a lack of clarity

4 KEY QUESTIONS

How can we make the case for governments to take a more comprehensive, holistic approach to supporting research and education, recognising that these are fundamental rights?

What will it take for us as librarians and researchers to strengthen our own advocacy in favour of better outcomes for education and research?

Can we better future-proof copyright laws by introducing more open norms?

Where are the gaps in the evidence at the moment that need to be filled in order to progress?

Where are the low-hanging fruit in terms of areas where progress can be most rapidly achieved, or principles established?

THE KNOWLEDGE RIGHTS 21 PROGRAMME

Building sustainable capacity for copyright and OA advocacy and delivering on policy change through:

- Support for national networks of libraries and allied groups through hiring National Coordinators and awarding national grants
- Work for change in Brussels through direct engagement with the European Commission, Parliament, Council of Ministers and beyond
- Strengthen the evidence base in key areas
- Training on copyright and advocacy

Policy areas of focus: eLending, contract override, open norms, secondary publishing rights, rights retention

Interested in engaging?

We want to hear from you if you want to be involved, from bidding for a role or grant, to sharing data and evidence that will help make the case for change. Let us know at info@knowledgerights21.org!