

2026 Interventions to Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR)

WIPO, the UN agency for intellectual property, brings governments and stakeholders together through its [Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights](#) (SCCR) to discuss international copyright policy.

At the 2026 SCCR meeting in Geneva, discussions continued on copyright limitations and exceptions. STM General Counsel Molly Stech attended and participated in the meeting. This document covers the two interventions she made during plenary at the SCCR

L&E – general intervention

Thank you, Chair. STM is the International Association of Scientific, Technical, and Medical Publishers. Our overarching mission is to advance trusted research, and our members include publishing houses of all shapes and sizes, as well as publishing-related organizations such as technology companies tackling research integrity concerns. With respect to the recent Proposal on L&E from the African Group at the last SCCR (document SCCR/47/5), we would like to highlight that, despite the document being presented as a draft legal instrument, there is, of course, as of yet no consensus among Member States on the form of work to be taken, and the ambition inherent in this document contradicts – or at least does not reflect – the status of discussions. STM would support an SCCR agenda that looks again at supporting copyright law's stature. STM and its members depend on existing copyright law's logic and longstanding success in balancing the ecosystem of authors and users by way of the three-step test. We recognize that the public interest is imperative and we welcome rational discussions that take all stakeholders' and Member States' positions into account, as the topic of L&Es is further explored in this committee. Thank you, Chair.

Access toolkit intervention

STM would like to thank the authors of the Toolkit for their presentations this morning. STM was especially interested in certain themes that were addressed, including the criticism that copyright is an obstacle to be overcome (which was something we raised in our input); the special duty of care that CHIs are entrusted with; and the idea that access is seldom explicitly addressed in statutes. STM, like other entities, was seeking a stronger balance between rightsholders and users, and a more neutral overview of how legislators can protect all stakeholders equally. More explicit references to exclusive rights, the salutary advantages of licensing, and the successes of the existing copyright ecosystem would have been welcome. Again, we appreciate the Toolkit authors' interventions this morning, while maintaining these points about the importance of underscoring copyright law's role as the bedrock of quality content and the advantages of private licensing separate from legislative efforts. Thank you, Chair.