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Gowers Copyright Consultation
Copyright and Intellectual Property Enforcement Directorate
UK Intellectual Property Office
Concept House
Cardiff Road Newport
NP10 8QQ
United Kingdom
Via e-mail: copyrightconsultation@ipo.gov.uk

Dear Sir or Madame:

On behalf of the Special Libraries Association (SLA), I write today in overall support of the recommended amendments directed toward changing exceptions in UK copyright law. SLA is a global information professional organization comprised of 135 active members in the UK, and over 11,000 members in seventy-five nations around the world.

Copyright and related intellectual property laws have important and substantial effects on the nature and extent of information services libraries provide to their users. Intellectual property laws are currently undergoing major changes in response to growth in the use of digital formats in the UK and around the globe. SLA applauds the Gowers Copyright Consultation process in addressing these issues in UK copyright law.

SLA supports changes that do not restrict, but rather enhance, the ability of libraries and information professionals to serve the needs of their clients to access, use, and preserve digital information, while at the same time protecting the rights of the copyright owners. There is an ongoing and heightened concern that emerging technologies intended to prohibit access to copyrighted works impede the use and preservation of digital information, and hampers libraries' ability to format shift archival copies. Gowers Copyright Consultation report addresses these concerns for both business and consumers. We look forward to the results of these efforts.

Respectfully,

Janice R. Lachance
Chief Executive Officer
Special Libraries Association
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