



Copyright Literacy of Librarians in France

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Why a study on copyright literacy of Librarians in France?

- ▶ ICTs are having a real impact on copyright and especially in Libraries: digitalization, curation, etc.
 - ▶ A more complicated context
- ▶ This study questions the readiness of French librarians to raise copyright issues
 - ▶ Are the librarians' backgrounds (training and formal education) helping them face changes affecting this topic?
 - ▶ Are they aware of international initiatives on copyright issues, or are they only focused on the national level?
- ▶ This study will produce a comprehensive knowledge of the copyright literacy of French librarians

Copyright and Author rights!!!

- ▶ In the French law, copyright and author rights do not have the same connotation although they tend to converge with the economic constraints
 - ▶ Only an individual can be considered as a work's author
 - ▶ Author rights grant exclusive property and moral rights to the creators of original literary, scientific and artistic works
 - ▶ The author can transfer later his/her economic and moral rights to a legal entity, this entity could not be considered, in any case, as the author but as the **beneficial owner**
- ▶ Copyright in the common-law sense does not make such distinction. An individual as well as a moral entity like a publisher or producer could be considered as an author

If we look back...

- ▶ The protection of author's rights and works can be traced back to the period of the French Revolution (1789) but the copyright issue in libraries is recent
- ▶ As “fair use” does not exist in French law
 - ▶ libraries, as public bodies under the ministries’ or local authorities’ supervision, have created over the years, de facto practices, which allow them freedom to give access to all of the works
- ▶ The need for legal competence in librarianship started to be a sensitive subject with the *Council Directive number 92/100/EEC concerning rental and lending rights*
- ▶ It was **the first attempt to restrict the access** to works in libraries

Librarians and copyright: a perpetual conflict

- ▶ Relations between librarians and players of copyright are interspersed over the time with exchanges that might show a perpetual conflict
- ▶ The latest controversial developments:
 - ▶ 2006: the law on author's rights and related rights in the information society (DADVSI). One of the point deal with Digital Rights Management (DRM)
 - ▶ 2009: the High Authority for the distribution of Works and the Protection of Rights on the Internet (HADOPI)
 - ▶ 2012: the law concerning the RELIRE project which allows the French National Library to digitize out-of-print books
 - ▶ Recently: the copy parties where patrons can come to the library and scan books for "private use"

In this context, copyright literacy skills are a requirement



Methodology

- ▶ A quantitative survey was created on LimeSurvey
- ▶ As designed, the questionnaire allowed us to:
 - ▶ realize the level of knowledge and awareness of the librarians regarding copyright related issues,
 - ▶ gather the views of respondents regarding institutional level copyright policy,
 - ▶ ask librarians for their opinions concerning LIS education
- ▶ The link to the survey was emailed by the author to more than **500 head academic librarians**, around **300 Facebook accounts libraries**, and **three professional mailing lists**
- ▶ A 5-point Likert Scale and few open questions **have** been used to get such assets
- ▶ Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the findings and Chi-square tests of independence to compare different factors



Respondents Profile (1/2)

- ▶ 329 completed answers
 - ▶ Which is a small sample related to the population of librarians in France (around 6000 for national civil services and 34 000 in local authorities)
- ▶ Around 75% of survey respondents were female
- ▶ Age range
 - ▶ predominance of people aged 30 to 39 (34.3%)
 - ▶ followed by the 40-49 (28.3%), 50-60 (17%) and younger than 30 (15.8%)
 - ▶ few people in the older age range of over 60 (4.6%)
- ▶ Working level of respondents
 - ▶ 55% were managers
 - ▶ 26.1% were at an intermediate level
 - ▶ 10% were employees and technicians
 - ▶ Just 8.8% work in a private company or as contractual librarians




Respondents Profile (1/2)

- ▶ Level of diploma and studies
 - ▶ Over 60% have a master degree
 - ▶ 63.5% studied Library science
 - ▶ 11.9% studied History science
- ▶ Type of library
 - ▶ 51.1%: university library
 - ▶ 24.3%: public library
 - ▶ 6.1%: company library
 - ▶ 18.5%: different organizations



Findings regarding Knowledge and Awareness (1/3)

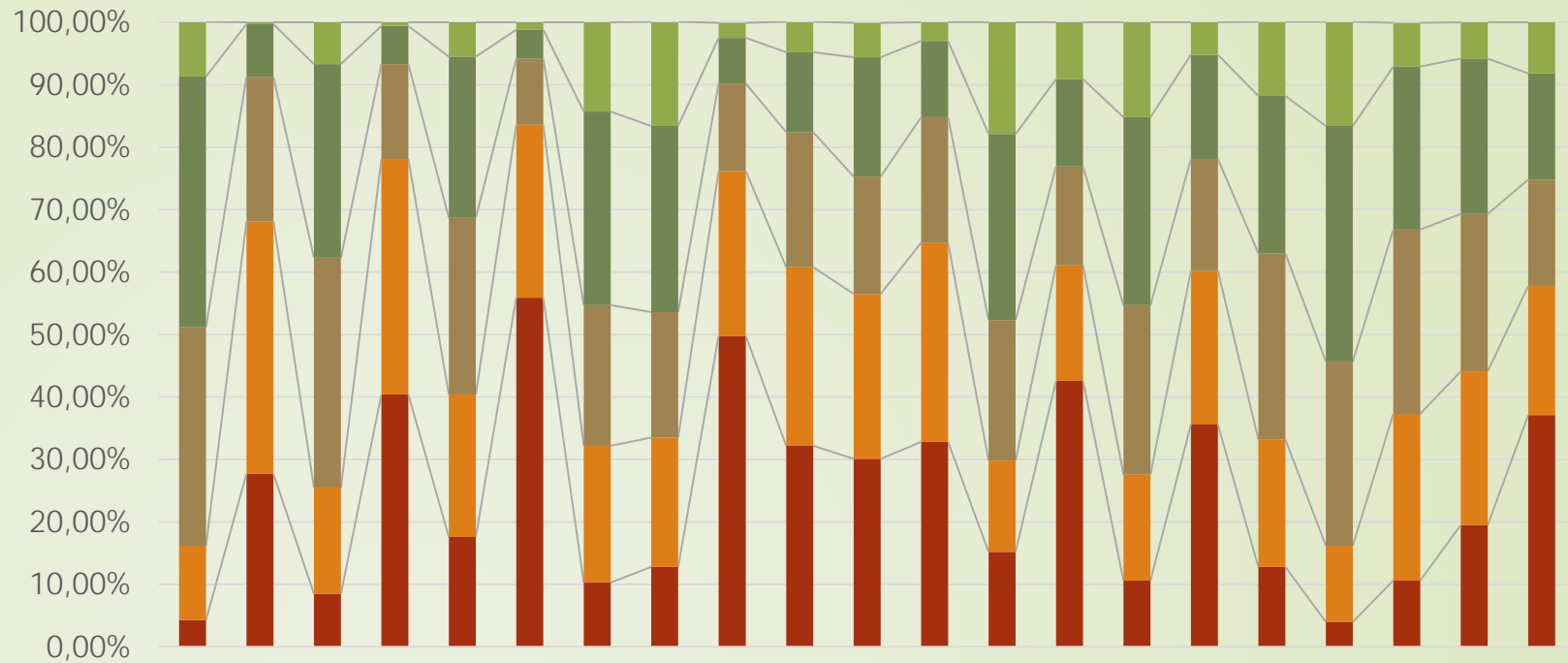
- ▶ The level of familiarity of French librarians with issues regarding copyright is weak compared to the importance of the addressed subject
- ▶ Sometimes the peaks of weakness reached or exceeded 50%
- ▶ The “real knowledgeable” percentage lies around 10% except for :
 - ▶ *Licensing for information sources* (14.3%)
 - ▶ *Licensing conditions* in respondent’s institution (16.7%)
 - ▶ *Creative Commons Licenses* (17.9%)
 - ▶ *Open access* (15.2%)
 - ▶ *Copyright issues regarding public domain* (16.7%)



Findings regarding Knowledge and Awareness (2/3)

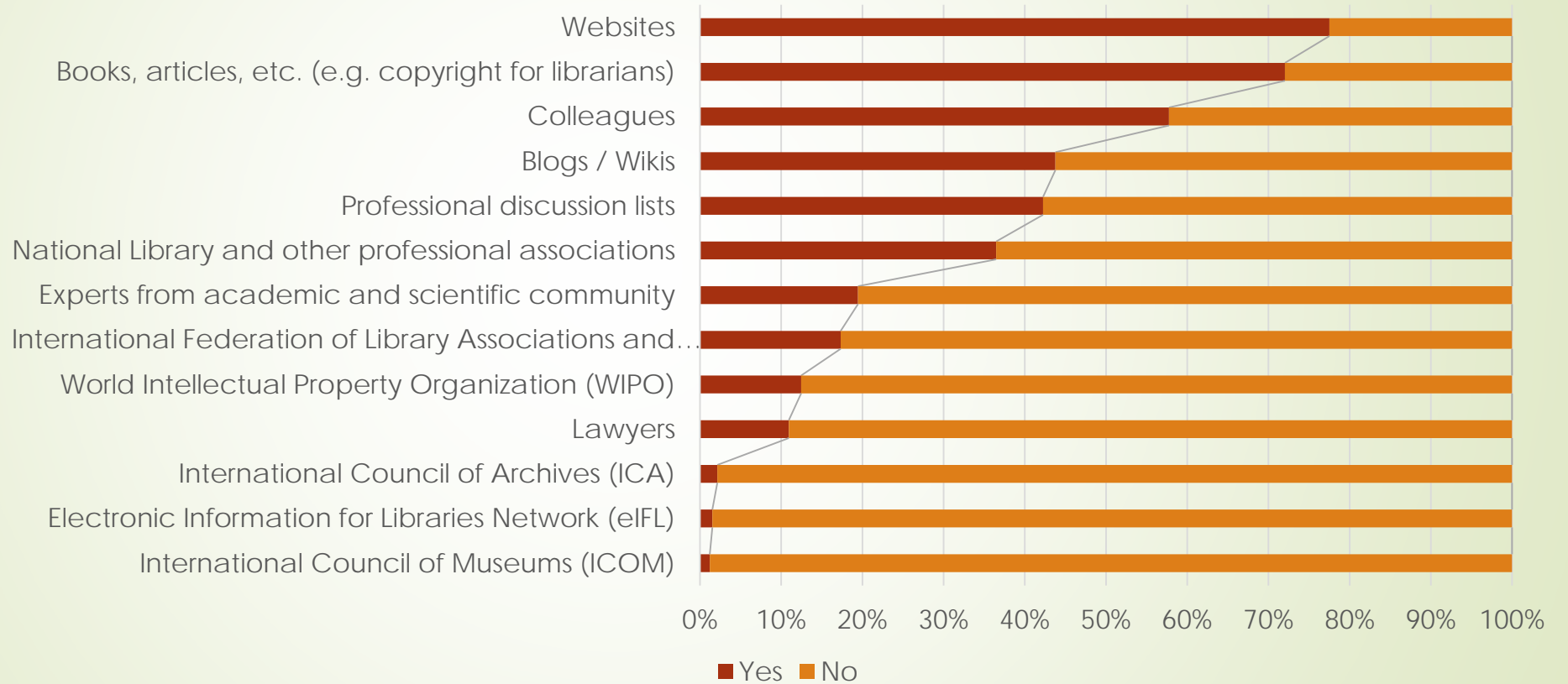
- ▶ The obvious lack in awareness concerns
 - ▶ *clearing rights* (55.9%)
 - ▶ *licensing for online information via curation* (49.8%)
 - ▶ *fair use* (35.6%)
 - ▶ *copyright related issue at the international level* (40.4%)
 - ▶ *copyright issues regarding virtual services within e-learning practices* (32.80%)
 - ▶ *licensing for cultural action* (32.2%)
- ▶ There is a lack of knowledge in copyleft (42.6%) although it is closely linked to creative commons licenses, which respondents consider that they are extremely (17.9%) and moderately (29.8%) aware of
- ▶ This weakness is noticed as well in questions dealing with the development of institutional repositories (30.1%)

Findings regarding knowledge and Awareness (3/3)



■ Not at all familiar
 ■ Slightly familiar
 ■ Somewhat familiar
 ■ Moderately familiar
 ■ Extremely familiar


Findings regarding information sources






Findings regarding Copyright Policy at the Institutional Level

- ▶ 85.4% answered that their institution has resources protected by copyright, 12.5% were unsure
- ▶ 80.9% think that institutional copyright policy is necessary for libraries and a minority (3%) does not
- ▶ Only 18.6% of institutions have a person in charge of questions dealing with copyright issues
- ▶ 34.3% does not have a copyright policy in their institution, **31% of respondents are uncertain**
 - ▶ Does this indicate a clear lack of concern of librarians for copyright issues?
- ▶ The same question could be asked for personal digitization purposes. **41.6% are uncertain** if their institution authorizes or prohibits it
- ▶ In fact, the widespread use of mobile devices makes copying documents easier. A lot of institutions have a collection protected by copyright. Almost half of the libraries (41.6%) authorize personal digitization against 17% who prohibit it




Findings regarding Education and Copyright

- ▶ Almost everyone (97.9%) is in favor of including copyright issues in the curriculum of Library and Information science (LIS) education as well as in continuing education
- ▶ The appropriate level of education to introduce intellectual property
 - ▶ Undergraduate level (70.2%)
 - ▶ Master's degree (37.4%)
 - ▶ PhD (17.6%)
- ▶ The type of appropriate course for continuing education on intellectual property
 - ▶ thematic workshops (65%)
 - ▶ Internet sources: websites, blogs, wikis, etc. (58.7%)
 - ▶ training course (54.7%)
 - ▶ distance learning (40.1%)
 - ▶ panel conference (40.1%)
 - ▶ consultation on request (37.7%)
 - ▶ round table discussion (24%)



Is there a relation between institution librarians work for, and their copyright awareness?

- ▶ The librarians' awareness level was clearly higher at the university library except for competence dealing with *licensing for cultural action* and *out-of-print works*
- ▶ There is no difference regarding *copyright at the national level, collective rights management organizations in France* and *material from public domain*
- ▶ The awareness level of librarians working in other types of institutions was not important enough to be taken into consideration
- ▶ Two hypotheses could explain these results:
 - ▶ Most of the librarians working in a public library did not receive education in LIS
 - ▶ The post-recruitment training is insufficient



Is there a relation between the type of study and copyright awareness?

- ▶ Librarians who had a LIS degree were more aware than those who didn't except for three issues:
 - ▶ *copyright at the international level*
 - ▶ *collective rights management organizations in France*
 - ▶ *copy parties*
- ▶ These results confirm our hypothesis and lead to suggest the creation of the same access pattern for the state or the local authorities' librarians
- ▶ A LIS education should be a compulsory requirement for recruiting in the local authorities libraries
- ▶ The chi-test also shows a relation between the level of diploma and the level of awareness
 - ▶ Those who have the highest degree have a better level of competence, which is a good argument as mentioned by our respondents, for the introduction of copyright education upon the entrance of students to the university

Trying to understand the reasons of this weakness...

By a curricula examination of LIS education

- ▶ In France, several diplomas lead students to become librarians:
 - ▶ University Diploma of Technology (DUT) is an intermediate two years diploma in *Library Science and Heritage*. Only 20 hours of a total of 1620 are dedicated to law
 - ▶ Bachelor professional degree (Licence professionnelle) shows a mean hourly volume of 400. Courses dedicated to copyright do not exceed 20 hours. The same applies for master's degrees
 - ▶ For a Libraries Curator Diploma (DCB) provided by the French National Library and Information Science School (Enssib), the law courses are optional with an hourly volume of 30
- ▶ **The quick examination of some degrees at all levels of training demonstrates that copyright in LIS education is inadequate compared to the complexity and vast scope of the subject**

Trying to understand the reasons of this weakness...

By a Lifelong Learning and Training examination

- ▶ Different organizations are qualified to deliver training to librarians. However, courses in copyright are rare
- ▶ The National Center of Territorial Public service (CNFPT) - a joint decentralized public institution which accompanies local authorities and their agents in their public service mission:
 - ▶ offers two courses dealing with copyright and their content does not cover all the aspects of copyright
- ▶ 12 Regional training centers of library careers. One of their missions is to train people who are already employed.
 - ▶ Not all of them offer courses on copyright
- ▶ Access to vocational training is a right covered by law in France. But the offer is:
 - ▶ relatively poor in comparison with the number of librarians
 - ▶ limited by the duration, rarely a training exceeds 30 hours



Conclusion

- ▶ Even if the size of the sample is limited, the results are nevertheless very significant
- ▶ It will be interesting to study the possibility of creating a specialized diploma in legal issues for librarianship; this diploma could be addressed to LIS background students
- ▶ Aside from the fact that this paper sheds light on the copyright literacy of French librarians, it also highlights the inadequacy of LIS education, and the lack of training
- ▶ The complexity of law in general and copyright in particular demonstrates that this is not a subject that can be covered in a single course
- ▶ Furthermore, this state of awareness shows the need for strong emphasis on continuing education, training and copyright law within the library profession
- ▶ May these results help enhance lifelong learning in LIS education and the curricula in order to give proper answers to the needs in the field