CFLA Copyright Committee Update – March 2021

At its February 2021 meeting, the CFLA Copyright Committee discussed improving communication to the library community about what we're working on. This message about current activities is the outcome of that discussion, and will be shared monthly. You are welcome to share it further.

At the March meeting, the CFLA Copyright Committee discussed the following activities:

- Preparation of a submission for the federal government's CUSMA consultation, which seeks to mitigate the implications of the extension of Canada's copyright term to life + 70. The term extension must take place by the end of 2022, and will align Canada's term with the US and EU among others. The committee discussed the pro bono legal opinion received from Clark Wilson to support proposing a registration system, sharing of the draft submission, and issues related to orphan works.
- The Committee has four current working groups discussing topics related to libraries and copyright, which are gaining knowledge of emerging areas or working on background papers. These are: Crown Copyright, Controlled Digital Lending, Artificial Intelligence and Accessibility. Most work was on hiatus this month due to the short timeline for preparing the CUSMA submission, which required intense effort by committee members.
- The virtual ABC Copyright conference https://abccopyright.com/ is upcoming on May 5-7. The committee discussed the topics for sessions, and agreed to submit a proposal to give a short talk based on the OLA Superconference session.