Copyright Protection in the Digital Age

29 September – 1 October 2009

Description

This workshop focused on copyright issues and the new tools to access and disseminate knowledge in the Arab world.

The first two session handled copyright topics while the third session focused on Options and Alternatives to Access and Disseminate Knowledge, stating that the human knowledge has been accumulated throughout the history of civilizations. There was no legal restriction on access to knowledge till the genesis of the IP laws. From the beginning there were exceptions and limitations to the exclusive rights of the creator or inventor. These E&L are options to access and disseminate knowledge. In addition, there were new initiatives to facilitate and make knowledge available to the public. These are the legal alternatives to access knowledge; Free and open-source software, Open access, Creative Common. Awareness and promotion of these alternatives are needed in the Arab countries.
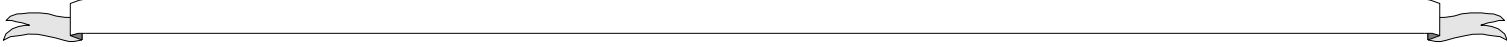
The last session gave information about the WIPO Development Agenda and how DA may have impact on development. It covered open access and public domain recommendations.

The second day started with an introduction to Creative Commons followed by more information about Creative Commons definition and practical information about the use of the CC licenses and the CC licenses in Arabic in Jordon and Egypt. The sessions also focused on creative commons licenses format, color coding, and how to choose a license.

The following session gave an introduction on Free Software, focusing on free software foundations, the history of free software, and the free software economy.

The last day's sessions gave detailed information about free and open source software issues covering the The GNU Project, The General Public License, GNU/Linux, and some examples of free and open source software applications.

The sessions also focused on the four freedoms of Free Software, the types of licenses, managing copyright, the Linux kernel example, the fiduciary license agreement and the legal work for Free Software.

The final session covered The legal protection of software and data bases giving detailed information about Protection of Software by copyright, argument about protecting software by patent, protection of databases by copyright, a sui generis right. And finally how the Egyptian IP law addressed theses issues.

Participants
Participants are from the Arab world (Egypt, Sudan and Jordan): Judges, lawyers, researchers, ICT engineers, librarians and all practitioners and scholars interested in copyright issues.