



**Resolution on WIPO draft treaty on Webcasts
Submitted by the BCLA Information Policy Committee, April 2006**

Whereas a draft treaty now before WIPO would create a new level of protection, above and beyond copyright, for "webcasters"* --anyone who sends images and sounds "at substantially the same time" over the internet. The proposal would let webcasters block the copying and redistribution of the webcasts even if the copyright holder had consented to open access, even if the webcast content had a valid Creative Commons license or equivalent, even if the content was in the public domain, and even if the content was legally uncopyrightable.

And Whereas connecting people with the information they seek, regardless of format, is among the most basic of principles of librarianship;

And Whereas this draft treaty would create significant barriers to access to information, around the world;

Therefore be it resolved that BCLA educate members about this draft treaty, through soliciting articles for BCLA Reporter and/or the forthcoming Partnership E-Journal, identify and pursue appropriate actions about the implications of this draft treaty, and refer this issue to the CLA International Trade Committee.

- webcaster = an organization similar to a broadcaster, except that the medium for broadcasting is the world wide web.

Moved by H. Morrison. Seconded by C. Graebner.