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Triumphs and challenges in the world of copyright were shared and discussed at this year's IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC).

The high point, without a doubt, was the success at WIPO of the Marrakesh Treaty – A Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works by Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print Disabilities – which, when implemented, will enable libraries to better serve the needs of the print disabled and reduce restrictions on importation of specialist materials. We were privileged to hear from some of the people on the ground at Marrakesh, who took us on their journey, from deep pessimism at the start of the round when the sticking points looked insurmountable, to the elation when they had a treaty, and 'not just a treaty, but a good treaty'. Denise Nicholson from South Africa gave some inspirational insights into how this may have a profound impact in the developing world (<http://library.ifla.org/239/>). The treaty has been signed by 50 countries (Australia has yet to sign) and will come into force when ratified by 20 nations. The next WIPO treaty on copyright exceptions will hopefully be on library exceptions (TLIB) aimed at ensuring access to knowledge (www.ifla.org/copyright-tlib). ALIA will continue to liaise with the Australian government as part of the international efforts to secure the TLIB treaty.

Other international developments are of greater concern. IP is on the agenda in several trade agreements, including the Transpacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) which Australia is negotiating with 11 other countries. Leaked text from the secretive agreement suggests a very restrictive IP chapter which would seriously curtail Australian libraries' abilities to operate efficiently, as IFLA Digital Programs Manager (and former Australian Libraries Copyright Committee [ALCC] Copyright Adviser) Ellen Broad explained. ALIA has been aware of the potential harm from the TPP for a while, and is

a founding member of the Fair Deal Coalition which is actively lobbying for a sensible IP result in the TPP (www.ourfairdeal.org/).

One of the most beneficial things about WLIC is the opportunity to share situations and discuss solutions with other library interested people from around the world. The rapidly developing world of e-books was explored from several different perspectives, and it was illuminating to see the problems and different approaches taken in various parts of the world. Margaret Allen, State Librarian WA and Chair of the ALCC and NSLA, shared the Australian perspective, exploring the difficulties and lessons learnt from the Book Industry Collaborative Council (BICC), including establishing libraries' important role in the book industry. The information gathered will feed into IFLA's future resources and advocacy efforts, building on the already available resources (www.ifla.org/e-lending).

One of the most popular sessions (standing room at the back!) was on text and data mining (TDM), a fascinating developing field in which copyright could have a dampening effect. The Elsevier speaker noted that they had never declined a request for TDM. Although, as many speakers noted, often the most important TDM is done by combining resources from different sources, requiring access at a more universal level than having to negotiate with individual publishers for each work. There was some disquiet expressed about the 'licences for Europe' project, where libraries and user groups have withdrawn from the process in concern over perceived biases and pre-formed solutions. ALIA, with the ALCC, will continue to keep a watching brief on the international developments in TDM and e-books, and use them in our domestic law reform efforts.

Three young Australian LIS professionals at IFLA – Kate Byrne, Clare McKenzie and ALIA Director Alyson Dalby, all from the University of NSW – created a stir with the International Librarians Network. Together with Amy Barker, also from the University of NSW, they have created this free online peer-mentoring program that

brings together professionals around the world who may not have the budget for travel but do aspire to build international connections and learn from each other. It is already operating in some 40 countries, with more than 300 members. Find out more at www.ilnetwork.wordpress.com.