

**6th Communia Workshop: Memory Institutions and the Public Domain  
1-2/10/09, Barcelona, Spain**

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Abstract:

European libraries have responded in many ways to the advent of the digital revolution. Not only have they replicated the norms of "analogue access" in the digital environment, they have embarked upon new activities often associated more readily with other sectors of the information sector. Much of this activity has focussed on unfettered access to knowledge. Copyright law, as well as licensing are also increasingly an important part of the environment for libraries and frame much of their activities - something that will have increasing importance as they navigate increasing online access as well as public private partnerships.