

“Reframing International Copyright Limitations and Exceptions as Development Policy,”
Ruth Okediji, William L. Prosser Professor of Law, University of Minnesota (US)

There is very little that aligns the current design of international copyright law with the requirements for socio-economic development. This paper argues that copyright limitations and exceptions (L&Es) needed to promote such development differs in important respects from the set of L&Es around which there is international consensus. Existing international copyright L&Es do not allow access to copyrighted works at a scale, or on terms, needed for economic development progress; they also insufficiently enable key stakeholders, such as educational institutions and libraries, to facilitate access to knowledge in support of human capital formation.

The paper highlights the need to orient the international copyright framework toward development concerns, while safeguarding local systems of cultural production. The changes suggested underscore the importance, for all countries, of new L&Es that support development while strengthening those L&Es traditionally understood to reflect the rights of users.