

**Copyright Matters: A Look at the Ongoing Pressure on Copyright Around the Globe**  
By María Fernanda Mendoza

I did the review of all nineteen copyright laws from Latin America's countries including Brazil, Cuba and Dominican Republic and I can assure that all of them satisfy Berne's Treaty considering the 3 steps rule to establish exceptions and limitations to the author's economic rights.

In the educational field, most of them allow the reproduction of material for investigation, critic purposes and personal and private use. It's also allowed reproduction in libraries for preservation, and most recently, to serve people with print disabilities attending Marrakech Treaty.

Nevertheless, for some years, there has been an interest from some Latin American governments to extend the exceptions list, most of all, in the educational field.

Arguing that the copyright is an obstacle for the access to knowledge and culture, some projects to modify copyright laws in our countries have been displayed. This idea, that was started in Chile, has grown though Brazil, Venezuela, Ecuador and most recently Uruguay, where a law project was presented to authorize the reproduction of materials with an educational purpose.

In Mexico there is a saying which is: *Hágase la Revolución en la tierra de mi compadre*, "make the revolution in my compadre's land" which means that tough changes have to be done in the property of others, not mine.

Nor doctors, nor teachers, lawyers, judges are asked to give away their job, so why should authors be the only ones to sacrifice for knowledge and culture's diffusion?

In Mexico's situation, in my opinion, text books authors agree with this treatment because there is a perverse system which gives them credits in the National Investigator System for each publication containing their names giving them benefits in their jobs.

The reality is that these text books authors don't see or assume themselves as actual writers and in fact, they are not members of the writers association, so in the end, publishers are the ones worried about avoiding that these projects become law.