The Circulation of Copyright Knowledge in the UK in the 21st Century

In February 2016, the Arts Council England (ACE) commissioned a report to analyse the extent to which the access and reuse of knowledge in the Arts and Humanities which is funded by public finances is open to the extent required by governmental grants. This prompted the authors of the report to look at the broader picture and at the way copyright is perceived by the public. The report stresses how knowledge on the scope and boundaries of copyright is essential to facilitate and enable the creation and communication of knowledge. How much do users know about derivative works, fair use or fair dealing? How much do specialist institutions and public bodies do to educate cultural entrepreneurs and users about the copyright framework? How informed are the creative industries and their public on the limitations and prerogatives of copyright? The report carried out an extensive qualitative analysis of the information on copyright available online whether is provided by specialist organisations, public bodies, unions or private initiatives in the UK. The 2016 Ace report is to be finalised by June 2016 and published shortly thereafter. The authors of the report propose to share in this paper the findings of their investigation and conclusions on best practices regarding the dissemination of information on copyright law to non-lawyers whether they are regarded as ‘creators’ or ’users’ of knowledge.

Mathilde Pavis is a Phd candidate in the final stages of her thesis at the University of Exeter (UK) and a former research fellow at the Kluge Centre of the US Library of Congress (Washington DC, US). She has been involved in various interdisciplinary project such as ‘InVisible Difference: Dance, Disability and Law’ (www.invisibledifference.org.uk) and has co-founded the network New IP Lawyers (www.newiplawyers.org). She teaches intellectual property law at the University of Exeter and Edinburgh.

Charlotte Waelde is professor of Intellectual Property Law at Coventry University (C-Dare: Centre for Dance Research)