

JOSEPH M. KAVULYA

**PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN,
CHUKA UNIVERSITY
KENYA**

Professor Joseph Kavulya is chairperson of EIFL's partner consortium in Kenya, the Kenya Library and Information Services Consortium (KLISC), and has been involved in national and international copyright reform.

In 2019, he was one of five African librarians supported by EIFL to take part in negotiations at the WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) meeting in Geneva on copyright limitations and exceptions for libraries, archives and museums.

"I was proud to be one of those voicing the concerns of African nations at the WIPO meeting," says Joseph.

"In Kenya, copyright law is restrictive and not very clear. As a result, librarians are fearful of copying case studies, tables or even excerpts from texts. They decline to copy even a few pages for users to avoid the risk of litigation. They are afraid of breaking the law."

EIFL has played an important role in facilitating the relationship between KLISC and KECOBO (the Kenya Copyright Board), he says. In 2020, EIFL and KLISC submitted joint comments to KECOBO on Kenya's draft Intellectual Property Bill 2020. "In the draft bill, there was no prior input from librarians. Through our comments, KECOBO is now more aware of the importance of limitations and exceptions for libraries and educational institutions, and has committed to reviewing the bill," says Joseph.

In 2021, EIFL, KLISC and KECOBO worked together to plan a series of webinars for various stakeholders in Kenya on copyright exceptions and other key topics that will continue in 2022. "We expect that these webinars that include local and international experts will raise awareness and support our case while the law is being reviewed."



"My dream is that the revised Intellectual Property Bill will address library concerns about supporting research, teaching and learning in Kenya."

– **PROF JOSEPH KAVULYA**