Consumers in the Digital Age: A, B and C
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Why this is a priority area

• CI has been working on digital issues for a long time... privacy, credibility online, e-commerce, A2K
• Affect consumer rights to basic needs, information, choice, etc.
• But as a specialised area, organisational empowerment is needed for many of our members
• Specialist digital rights organisations (EFF, Public Knowledge, LQDN) don't identify as consumer orgs
• Consumer movement has broader credibility, balance
Access to Knowledge

Broadband

Consumer Rights and Representation
A2Knetwork.org

Global consumer network on

Access to knowledge
Broadband
Consumer rights & representation

CI seeks to harness the collective voice and effectiveness of consumer groups working around the world and across issue sectors, to guarantee that consumer interests are adequately represented in national and global debates around intellectual property (IP) and communications rights, and thereby to serve as a catalyst for policy change, by putting pressure on governments and international organisations to develop more balanced IP and communications regimes.

Consumers in the Information Society: Access, Fairness and Representation

Registration is now open for Consumers in the Information Society: Access, Fairness and Representation, a global summit of consumers to discuss and set an agenda for advocacy on the issues that face consumers in today's online digital environment. Read
Grants that I manage

- Access to Knowledge Phase 2 (OSI)
  - August 2010 to August 2012

- Broadband and the Information Society: The Contours of Internet Freedom (Ford)
  - May 2011 to May 2013

- Adding A2K Principles to the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection (IDRC)
  - September 2011 to September 2013
Access to Knowledge

• The 2012 IP Watchlist

• Negotiating for voluntary “fair uses”
  – Demands from collecting societies at public meeting with C4C, May 2012
  – Support for consumer-ownable DPP P1817

• National campaigning sub-grants
  – Zambia for reducing duty on newsprint
  – Malaysia for free software on new PCs
Broadband

- Global survey in 20 countries to be presented
- Advocacy manual and campaigning materials
- Pilot campaigns in 8 countries
- Roundtable public meeting with ISPs
Consumer Rights

- Amending the UN Guidelines
  - Amendments finalised
  - Research now underway
- Intellectual property abuse
  - Combatting with TRIPS
  - Unfair contract terms
- Consumer representation
  - Mapping institutions, identifying gaps
  - Capacity building and funding members
The future

• Issues not strongly covered in our current work
  – Online marketing and privacy
  – Consumer-ownable DPP P1817
  – Mobile telecommunications

• New member expert group will offer input on strategic direction (*and you can too*)

• Possible crossovers with other areas?
  – Broader review of UN Guidelines
  – Online remittances – eg. PayPal
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