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The Music Library Association (MLA) respectfully submits the following comment in response to the call for comments, "Section 1201 Exemptions to Prohibition Against Circumvention of Technological Measures Protecting Copyrighted Works," (<http://copyright.gov/1201/>). The MLA is the professional association for music libraries and librarianship in the United States. Founded in 1931, MLA has an international membership of over 800 librarians, musicians, scholars, educators, and members of the book and music trades. Complementing the Association's national and international activities are eleven regional chapters that carry out its programs on the local level. The Music Library Association provides a professional forum for librarians, archivists, and others who support and preserve the world's musical heritage.

This comment addresses the fifth proposed class of exemptions out of 27 created by the Copyright Office in December 2014:

5. Audiovisual works – derivative uses – multimedia e-books

This proposed class would allow circumvention of access controls on lawfully made and acquired motion pictures used in connection with multimedia e-book authorship. This exemption has been requested for audiovisual material made available in all formats, including DVDs protected by CSS, Blu-ray discs protected by AACS, and TPM-protected online distribution services.

A core mission of music libraries is to support innovative scholarship and research. This exemption speaks directly to new modes of scholarship that currently cannot be legally pursued by scholars or supported by music libraries who have lawfully acquired much of the audiovisual content in question. This exemption would allow music librarians to aid scholars in new modes of research and communication to further our understanding and promote the value of our collections. Scholarly projects that would need this exemption could include multimedia books that provide contextualized analysis of audiovisual content and newer forms of scholarship not yet imagined.