

## **Legal deposit: Statutory obligation or right to access to national heritage?**

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A national audiovisual archive faces many challenges in ensuring that the published cultural and intellectual heritage of its country is acquired and preserved for all to use.

An important mechanism in assisting archives meet this responsibility is legal deposit. The advent of digital era brought a variety of fresh legal challenges. Audiovisual materials appeared as new types of documents while the balance between creators and users still remains sensitive.

So the time is not bad chosen to answer the following question: Is it worth it and how a national archive could manage to use legal deposit as a vehicle to acquire and preserve a nation's audiovisual heritage while persuading all stakeholders to respect the legal scheme?

This paper will attempt to answer the aforementioned questions by outlining the amalgam of legal issues related to legal deposit of audiovisual material, revising legislation and legal practice already in place in other countries and finally by exploring perspectives and ways for Hellenic National Audiovisual Archive to implement a national legal deposit scheme.