



Australian
Library and
Information
Association



Helen Roberts
ALIA Copyright
Advisor

I have been ALIA's copyright advisor since June 2008. I work Tuesdays and Thursdays, and accept questions by phone and email. I have had a long term interest in copyright and extensive experience in providing copyright advice. I was responsible for copyright information in the Australian National University Library, and have acted in the position of Assistant Copyright Officer in the Legal Office, also at

ANU. I have an Honours degree in Law and a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (with merit), an Honours degree in English, and a Diploma in Librarianship. I have been an active ALIA member at the group level in the ACT and NSW and have served on several ALIA advisory committees, including as a member, and later chair, of the ALIA Copyright and Intellectual Property Advisory Committee.

Copyright queries from members

The volume of queries has increased in the last year. I think this is because copyright is becoming more central to what we do – libraries are putting material up as copyright creators as well as being users and guardians of copyright. Also copyright is now overlapping with issues such as privacy and licenses for digital material. I am also responsible for privacy issues.

Presentations, articles, and submissions

I give talks and presentations on copyright; the most recent was a talk on 5 November 2009 at the State Library of Queensland on section 200AB of the Copyright Act. I gave a plenary session on Copyright Issues at the 2009 ALIA National Library and Information Technicians Conference with Ian McDonald, then Acting Director of the Australian Copyright Council (ACC). Other talks have included a two hour practical session for Canberra Institute of Technology library technician students, a presentation to the River of Opportunities Conference on Copyright: How do you approach it?, and a workshop on copyright issues in education in Sydney in November 2008 where I was on the panel answering questions.

What your **ALIA** **Copyright Advisor** does for you

I regularly update the Copyright pages on the ALIA website, including the Members-only Copyright FAQs.

I also contribute to LIS Management in Focus and ALIA e-lists on issues such as parallel importation of books. In July and August I provided extensive suggested practical revisions to the new edition of the Australian Copyright Council's Libraries: a copyright guide, which was launched at the ALIA National Library and Information Technicians Conference. I write regular copyright columns for inCite, covering such topics as 'How the copyright flexible dealing exception can help your library', and 'How library renovations could cause legal problems'. I provide input for ALIA submissions to government enquiries, like the Productivity Commission's enquiry into the parallel importation of books.

Representing ALIA and its members

I represent ALIA as a member of the Australian Libraries Copyright Committee and the Australian Digital Alliance. I am a member of the ALIA Copyright and Intellectual Property Advisory Committee and help the members keep in touch by email about issues as they arise.

I am a member of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Intellectual Property Consultative Group on issues such as the Australia-Chile FTA, including the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) and Australia's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership initiative.

Staying abreast of copyright issues

I monitor the media, copyright sites, and have email information sent to me on copyright. I get regular updates from blogs like that of Anne Lennox at RMIT. I have set up alerts to get new copyright information from media and the web. I attend talks like that of Dr Frances Gurry, Director General of World Intellectual Property Organisation on 4 August 2009 and conferences like Reimagining copyright for the 21st century. In 2008 I attended the two days of the major copyright case in the High Court, IceTV v Nine Network.

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