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NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

Join up, pay up. Attacking free library services in NSW.

The latest assault on free library services was delivered in the recent NSW Report of the Committee of Enquiry into Local Government Rating and other Revenue Powers and Resources, referred to as the Oakes Report, which advocates charging for all use of public libraries.

This report recommends 'a quarterly membership fee to be charged for library services limited to \$5 per quarter with annual increases to be limited to \$1 per quarter or 10% whichever is the greater. The Government to determine whether concessions should apply, the costs to form a charge against the subsidy' (p 107).

Whilst the report mentions possible subsidies from the State Government to assist 'needy sections of the community', there is no acknowledgement that the elderly, the disadvantaged, children and young people - the very groups who need encouragement and stimulation - will be discouraged by charges.

The Task Force to consider submissions, to be lodged by 31 August, does not include representation of library or other professional associations. Submissions may be made by 'any interested person or organisation'.

The ALIA Public Libraries Section (NSW Group) and the Association of Local Government Librarians in NSW have joined forces to mobilise support in defence of free public library services, and there has been strong support for this expressed by Councils, particularly through the Country Libraries Association.

At a joint meeting on 20 June, two groups were established. A 'Submission group' will prepare a submission to the Task Force on Local Government Rating. A second 'Campaign group' has been established to develop a plan of action to defend public library services and act as a resource group. The group co-ordinators would welcome comments and offers of assistance.

Submission group: John Flint (Willoughby Municipal Library) Campaign group: Alan Flores (Baulkham Hills Public Library)

It is important that politicians be lobbied to ensure that they understand that libraries are publicly funded organisations set up to achieve community objectives. They are not 'free' in the sense often used, but part of the general service provision of Local Government Authorities to their communities.

The ALIA is resolutely opposed to the principle of charging for public library services and its policy statements affirm that 'freedom of access to information is essential to the democratic process and to the social welfare of the community. That freedom can be as much inhibited by poverty as by censorship. Satisfaction of a person's information needs must not be contingent upon ability to pay'.

The importance of the the Oakes' report to the future and effectiveness of public libraries in NSW should not be underestimated, nor the possible implications for library services throughout australia.

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AV Copyright Update

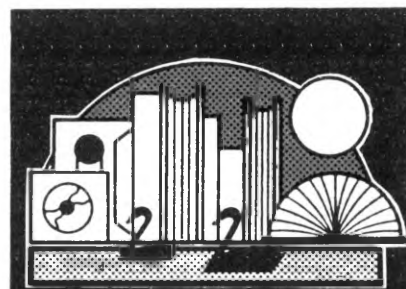
Amendments made to the Copyright Act by the Copyright Amendment Act, 1989 include provisions concerning audiovisual materials which is good news for librarians, particularly those in educational institutions.

An important new provision in Section 103C extends fair dealing with an audiovisual item to include use for the purposes of research or study. Librarians will recall that amendments made in 1986 to the Act provided for fair dealing for the purposes of criticism, review and reporting news. The new provision of fair dealing for the purpose of research or study extends to

library users of audiovisual material privileges similar to those which have long applied in the case of literary, dramatic, musical or artistic works. The conditions which constitute fair dealing for the purpose of research or study are specified in the Act.

For librarians of educational institutions and institutions assisting intellectually handicapped persons, the provisions in Part VA of the Act are a major step forward in allowing them to offer a fuller range of services to users who seek access to audiovisual materials.

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A·L·I·A 1990
1st Biennial Conference
Perth - Western Australia
September 30-October 5, 1990
at the Perth Concert Hall

CD-ROM access at Box Hill College of TAFE

With the increasing number of databases on CD-ROM format, the Library and Information Studies Department was faced with a dilemma. How could it arrange individual 'hands on' access to CD-ROM products in a classroom situation? Even though classes were limited in size the two CD-ROM stand alone set ups connected to an overhead monitor were inadequate.

The only option was networking. A product called OPTINET appeared to be the answer to the problems and it has been. The department had a computer laboratory of 17 PCs (IBM clones) and it purchased a 286 machine, 40MB hard disc as a file server. It soon became apparent that faster machines were needed as work stations, EGA or VGA screens were needed in order to be able to use certain products. New 286 machines with multi-sync monitors were purchased.

In order to install OPTINET the machines had to be networked. This was done using Novell 2.1 and OPTINET 1.2 was

loaded. The department purchased the 100 user version of OPTINET — the options available were 8 or 100. The two CD-ROM players were connected to the file server and 11 work stations attached. There is nothing magical about the figure 11 — it represents all the department could afford.

This has revolutionised the teaching in some areas, especially that of online searching. Students can now spend hours acquiring searching skills without any online costs. The online access time has been dramatically reduced.

This facility also enables the department to run continuing education activities using a number of CD-ROM products. Details of these courses can be obtained from the department. An 'open' session for interested persons will also be held in July — once again contact the department for details.

Pamela Naylor
Box Hill College of TAFE

AV Copyright continued from 1 . . .

Institutions are required to keep records in a specified form of all recordings made and submit them as required to the Society.

The agreement also provides for retention of recordings made in the past, subject to an appropriate remuneration being paid, recording of broadcasts for preview purposes, and retention of an archival copy, called a 'preservation copy', made for the sole purpose of providing the institution with a copy for use in replacing a lost or damaged copy.

As specified in the Act, preview copies of a broadcast may be kept only for 14 days at which point a decision must be made to destroy them or pay remuneration for their retention.

While the new provisions in the Act relating to recording television and radio broadcasts apply only to educational institutions and institutions assisting intellectually handicapped persons, including their libraries, they provide a useful indication of the way in which future developments might occur in the Copyright Act to provide opportunities for other libraries to record radio and television broadcasts and make them available to their clientele.

The Audiovisual Services Committee of ALIA is currently considering whether an extension of the provisions in the Act for the recording of radio and television broadcasts to include libraries other than those

already covered would serve a useful purpose. Librarians who see some advantage in their libraries being able to record radio and television broadcasts in return for equitable remuneration being paid to copyright owners are invited to write to the convener of the committee expressing their views.

A further provision in the Copyright Amendment Act, 1989 which may be of interest is contained in Part VC. This provides for a royalty payable on blank sound tapes which are sold. It is intended that royalties collected will be distributed by a Collecting Society to copyright owners. In return for payment of the royalty, purchasers will be able to copy published sound recordings for private and domestic use.

The new provisions in the Act mark important steps forward for librarians, particularly those in educational institutions, in the provision of audiovisual resources to meet the needs of their users.

The Audiovisual Services Committee of ALIA will continue seeking amendments to the Copyright Act to allow librarians to meet better the needs their users have for access to audiovisual materials while at the same time protecting the reasonable rights of copyright owners.

Paul T McNally
Convener

ALIA Audiovisual Services Committee

ALIA 1990 Conference update

The Fourth Circular with updated information is in preparation and if not enclosed in this *incite*, will be forthcoming.

We were delighted to read that Plenary Speaker Meg Cameron became a Member of the Order of Australia in the recent Queen's Honours List, and send her our congratulations.

The program is shaping up well. The paper review sub-committee is very pleased with the quality and novelty of the papers received.

Remember: 1990 is International Literacy Year (ILY). There will be a Baker & Taylor Literacy Luncheon during the Conference. Baker & Taylor will be sponsoring both Ernie Di Mattia and Margaret Whitlam who will be speaking at the luncheon on Wednesday, 3 October 1990. Margaret Whitlam AO is Chairman of the National Consultative Council on ILY and received press in *incite* 8. Ernie Di Mattia is an American who has worked with UNESCO and is well known in Australia. He will present us with an international perspective of ILY.

The Singapore Post Conference Seminar 8-9 October 1990 is on! The first day will be spent on strategic planning, and the second will cover the technological implications of our rapidly converging information related professions, Singaporean presentations on WITS (Work Improvement Teams) and visits to Singapore libraries. Want to go? Let Promaco know!

Send your registration in now to our Conference Organisers: Promaco Conventions Pty Ltd, Unit 9a, Canning Bridge Commercial Centre, 890-892 Canning Highway, Applecross, WA 6153, telephone (09) 364 8311, fax (09) 316 1453.

See you soon.

Kerry Smith
Publicity Sub-Committee



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