

▶ From 7 ...

Australia within 30 days of first publication overseas. What this means is that, where this is not done, booksellers may freely import non-pirate copies from whatever source they please.

Where the copyright owner has published in Australia within 30 days, but runs out of stock and cannot supply within 90 days, booksellers are again free to import from overseas. However the copyright owner recovers monopoly control once it has copies available again.

The provisions will not affect books published before the new arrangements came into force.

## What will be the consequences?

In future books will become available more promptly in Australia either through publication or importation by booksellers. However if they are published in Australia within 30 days they may cease to be available for periods of up to 90 days, and during that period booksellers may not import the overseas edition unless they hold a specific order from a customer who requires the book for non-commercial purposes. It would be greatly preferable for booksellers to be able to import as soon as the copyright owner was unable to supply copies. Moreover there will almost certainly be administrative problems as books go in and out of availability.

Books published until the new arrangements come into force will remain subject to the traditional arrangements. This means that the old monopoly will remain for most books for a very long time to come. It is not clear from the ministerial announcement whether the provision permitting

a bookseller to import if a specific order is held, will apply to already published books. It would have been much preferable for the 90 day provision to be applied to all books.

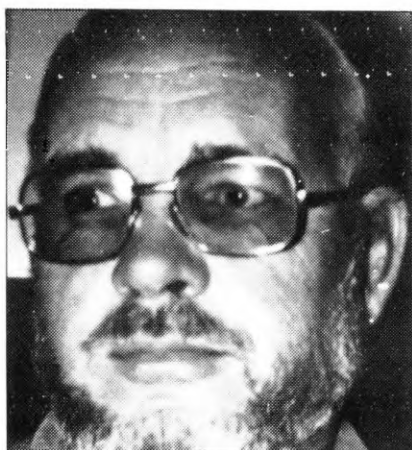
And prices? Well it always was doubtful whether changes to the importation provisions would affect prices, very much except where there was a cheaper alternative edition. One area where price competition will appear, is where a paperback edition available overseas is not published in Australia. In those circumstances a locally published or imported hardback edition will have price competition. In some cases, fluctuations in currency rates may make overseas editions competitive with the Australian edition.

Books are more quickly remaindered overseas than in Australia and books which have not met the requirement to be published in Australia within 30 days of overseas publication will receive competition from remainders more quickly than before.

In other cases reductions in price were always improbable. The market for many specialised books is so small and the cost of supplying the limited market so high that competitive pricing does not occur.

To sum up, in future new books published overseas should appear more quickly in Australia. Out of stock problems for many books will still be frustrating, a situation which could have been avoided, while still retaining the same policy direction, if the Government had adopted a more stringent interpretation of when a book is not available within a reasonable time. And there will be competitive pricing for some books, especially where there is an alternative paperback edition.

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# Library usage doubles

The State Library of Queensland has recently received two awards for its new building. These are a Certificate of Merit for Public Buildings from the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) as part of the BOMA Queensland awards for 1989, and a commendation by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) Queensland Chapter.

Public reaction to the new building in the 18 months since its opening was exceptionally good. Usage has more than doubled by comparison with the old building in William Street.

A number of new services have been commenced in the new building. These include an Audio Visual Unit, a Childrens' Library, a Genealogy Unit, a Business Information Service and a Liaison Unit.

The publicity associated with the building and its new or improved services has resulted in a number of notable acquisitions mostly through donation. These include, of course, the James Hardie Library of Australian Fine Art, the best collection of its type in the world valued at \$3 million. In addition, the Palmer Collection consisting of more than 8000 records of opera and music has been received.

Other notable collections include the Cable Collection of Hymnology and Folk Music, the Eber Bunker Maritime Collection, 17 000 photographs donated by Dorothy Coleman, a leading Brisbane photographer, and the personal records of former Queensland Art Gallery Director, James Weinecke. The records of Tarong Station represent one of the most significant collections of pastoral history in the State. The publicity has also been very valuable in attracting donations to the State Library of Queensland Foundation, which has now reached the \$1.1 million mark.

The exhibition area has proved to be very successful with a wide range of displays including Ethel Turner's childrens books, The World of Banjo Paterson, French Revolution Posters, Australia's Italians.

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