

Libraries to benefit from upcoming copyright reforms

The Australian Libraries' Copyright Committee (ALCC) welcomes the announcement of substantial reforms to copyright law that will benefit libraries and archives. The federal Attorney-General announced on Sunday 14 May 2006 that Australians can expect an overhaul of the current copyright exceptions to better reflect a balance of interests in the Copyright Act.

These reforms, which will respond to the *Fair Use and Other Copyright Exceptions Review*, are expected to remove undue and unreasonable copyright restrictions affecting the sector, and improve the functionality of libraries and archives by making it easier to preserve and make libraries' collections accessible to the public.

Libraries and archives can expect to benefit from a new 'flexible dealing exception' which will allow a broad range of uses within institutions for non-commercial purposes. Unlike the current 'fair dealing' provisions, which will

probably continue, this exception will not be available to the broader public, however it will be available to educational and cultural institutions, and to people with disabilities.

While the reforms on the whole appear to provide a much needed step towards more logical copyright laws, the extent to which they will achieve this goal will be clearer when the draft Bill is circulated. One area for closer review will be the extent to which the amendments will address preservation and public access in State Libraries.

'Australia's libraries look forward to studying the detail of the Bill and to understanding more specifically how it will affect their essential mission of preserving and organising collections and resources for present and future use,' said the chair of the ALCC Tom Cochrane. 'On a more general level, we note the policy emphasis by the government on distinguishing between intentional piracy and acts of individual copying by

members of the public. The clarity of this distinction is most welcome. For too long some parts of the copyright industry lobby have sought to advance arguments based on a confusion between fair acts of copying and notions of piracy.'

The ALCC is the main consultative body and policy forum for the discussion of copyright issues affecting Australian libraries and archives. It is a cross-sectoral committee which considers the impact of copyright law reform on Australian libraries and archives and provides advice to the federal government on how to maintain a balance between reasonable access to creative works for copyright users on the one hand and incentives for copyright creators and owners on the other.

For more information go to http://alia.org.au/advocacy/copyright/copyright_reforms.html and also <http://www.digital.org.au/alcc/>. ■

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This is a fabulous opportunity to update your web searching skills. Don't miss out – register now for these exciting and extremely useful workshops. Registration available now online at <http://shop.alia.org.au/StoreFront.aspx>, or e-mail georgina.dale@alia.org.au.

Where and when?

June schedule	Level 1	Level 2
Alice Springs:	Tuesday 20 June	
Darwin:	Thursday 22 June	Friday 23 June
Cairns:	Monday 26 June	
Townsville:		Wednesday 28 June
Brisbane:		Friday 30 June

What does it cost?

ALIA is pleased to offer discounts to members of LIANZA/ASLA/ASA/IFLA, whose members are entitled to register for these workshops at ALIA member rates. Please contact Georgina Dale on 02 6215 8229 or georgina.dale@alia.org.au for further information. Rates include GST.

Registrant	Cost
ALIA rate	\$395
Non-ALIA rate	\$455
Students	\$295
Bulk rate (5–10 registrants from one organisation)	\$300 per person

Who should attend?

Librarians, researchers, scientists, librarians, bankers, engineers, lecturers, IT professionals, journalists, lawyers, librarians, PR consultants, architects, police, CI specialists, intelligence officers, librarians, advertisers, teachers, strategic planners and you. Anyone who seeks quality information from

the WWW will find this workshop invaluable, as previous delegates will tell you.

What will you learn?

The aim of the workshops is to provide high quality training for professionals on exploiting the Web to obtain information you can rely upon, and to learn when to go beyond the Web. We want to help you deliver the best possible information services to your clients and your organisations. The workbooks are comprehensive and delegates can review the websites at their leisure later with passwords that will take them into a special section of <http://www.websearchpacific.com>.

One or both workshops?

Level one focuses on the main concepts information professionals need to be familiar with: Search engine mechanics; Power searching with Google; Misinformation on the Web; Search engines that don't start with G; Getting to the 'a-ha' moment – inside the brain of a Power Searcher; and Q & A: answering questions provided in advance.

Level two, the advanced workshop for anyone who has already attended previous Web Search Pacific workshops, focuses on: The Invisible Web – what has changed, what is new; Advanced People Research: profiling executives and other professionals; Search engine update: all the new things the search engines are doing; Hidden search engine gems: Y!Q, Google Scholar and other buried stuff; Web Nasties coping with Phishing, Pharming and Spyware; Advanced Blogs, RSS and Newsfeeds – creating your own RSS, Web clipping tools, and Power Research Tools; and Q & A – answering questions provided in advance.

Presented by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) in partnership with Information Edge.