

Addressing the big issues

The Australian Libraries Copyright Committee meeting, 29 January 1999

The Libraries Copyright Committee was established in 1993 and is the main consultative body and policy forum for the discussion of copyright issues affecting Australian libraries. The committee is made up of representatives from ALIA, the Australian Council of Archives, the Council of Australian State Libraries, the Council of Australian University Librarians, the Federal Libraries Information Network and the National Library of Australia.

The committee met in Canberra on 29 January to discuss the future co-ordination and planning for copyright in the library and information sector.

Chair of the committee, Tom Cochrane, has announced a number of recommendations from the meeting:

- that the committee be renamed the Australian Libraries Copyright Committee (ALCC);
- that the membership remain as it is, but the committee will have the power to co-opt other members as it sees fit;
- that the chairperson of the Committee need not be a representative of the sectors included on the Committee, and will be appointed for a period of two years;
- that the ALCC's primary role will include advocacy, lobbying, preparing submissions to government, education on copyright issues, and establishing appropriate national and international links in the copyright arena;

- that, in partnership with the ALCC, ALIA will take over the information service previously provided by the ACLIS copyright officer; and
- that the ALCC will act as a steering committee to the copyright (law and policy) advisor.

The committee agreed to re-appoint Tom Cochrane for a further two years as the chair of the committee and to retain the services of Annabelle Herd as the copyright (law and policy) advisor. The National Library of Australia will act as the host institution for Annabelle. Annabelle is also the copyright advisor to the Australian Digital Alliance (ADA).

The cost of supporting the committee and maintaining the copyright portfolio (including the cost of employing the copyright advisor) will be supported from financial contributions from the sectors represented on the committee. Final details of financial support will be determined after the release of a business plan.

The copyright advisor's role in the ADA will be supported from the financial contributions of the members of the ADA. This will remain separate from the ALCC.

Revised terms of reference for the ALCC are being considered by the committee. The final terms of reference will be posted on ALIANet.

*Craig Grimison, chair,
ALIA Copyright Committee*

Copyright law reform activity

- **Copyright Amendment Digital Agenda Bill** to be released as an exposure draft in the coming weeks.
- **Part Two of the CLRC's Simplification Report: *Simplification of copyright subject matter and rights*** has been approved by the Attorney-General and released on 12 February.
- **The Australian Digital Alliance** was launched on 26 February 1999.

Australian
Library and
Information
Association

STUDY GRANT AWARD 1999

There are funds available to ALIA members wishing to undertake a study project. Study Grants are offered to provide an opportunity for librarians or library technicians to undertake projects that they would otherwise be unable to do because of the time and costs involved. Study Grants are open to practising librarian or library technician members who have been personal members for at least two years and have a minimum of three years experience.

The number of awards in any year will depend upon the funds available and the estimated costs of proposals received.

Nomination forms are available from ALIA National Office
PO Box E441, Kingston ACT 2604
ph 02 6285 1877, fax 02 6282 2249
e-mail awards@alia.org.au
URL <http://www.alia.org.au/awards.html>

Applications close
1 September 1999

ALIA



**Advanced
Affordable
& Proven.**

Windows Internet

**The Athena Generation
of Library Management
from Nichols Advanced
Technology Inc.**

SKAHA Pty Ltd

ACN 071 518 422

Tel 02 9262 6663

Fax 02 9221 7570

Skaha@s054.aone.net.au.