

The Library Online Challenge

State Library of Queensland shares knowledge (and prizes) in LIW

To celebrate Library and Information Week (LIW), the State Library of Queensland presents the Library Online Challenge. The Challenge consists of six questions, all of which can be answered by using the State Library's subject gateways to web resources — QueenslandWeb and NetLinks.

Questions are structured to demonstrate the scope of the databases and the different ways of finding information — searching across both databases. The Library Online Challenge is open to all; however the prize can only be won by an Australian resident.

State Library of Queensland invites you to take up the Library Online Challenge. Let your clients know that they can be in the running to win a major prize (more in the next issue of *inCite*).

Share your knowledge with us and with your clients by: promoting the Library Online Challenge in your community during

Library and Information Week; contributing to QueenslandWeb and NetLinks through our 'suggest a site' forms. Queensland library staff can become formal contributors for their local regions.

The Challenge opens with LIW on Monday, 14 May, and will be drawn on Queensland Day, Wednesday, 6 June.

If you have any questions about the Library Online Challenge, or would like a graphic for your website, or other promotional material contact the QueenslandWeb manager, qldweb@slq.qld.gov.au.

QueenslandWeb: an index of Queensland websites described and indexed by library staff, <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/qldweb.htm>.

NetLinks: an index of authoritative, quality internet sites selected across a wide range of subjects and evaluated by skilled librarians — <http://netlinks.slq.qld.gov.au>. ■

Personal e-mail and copyright

Contrary to alarmist media reports, sharing e-mail is not banned by law.

Amendments to the Copyright Act that came into effect last month do not outlaw the practice of forwarding personal e-mails to other people.

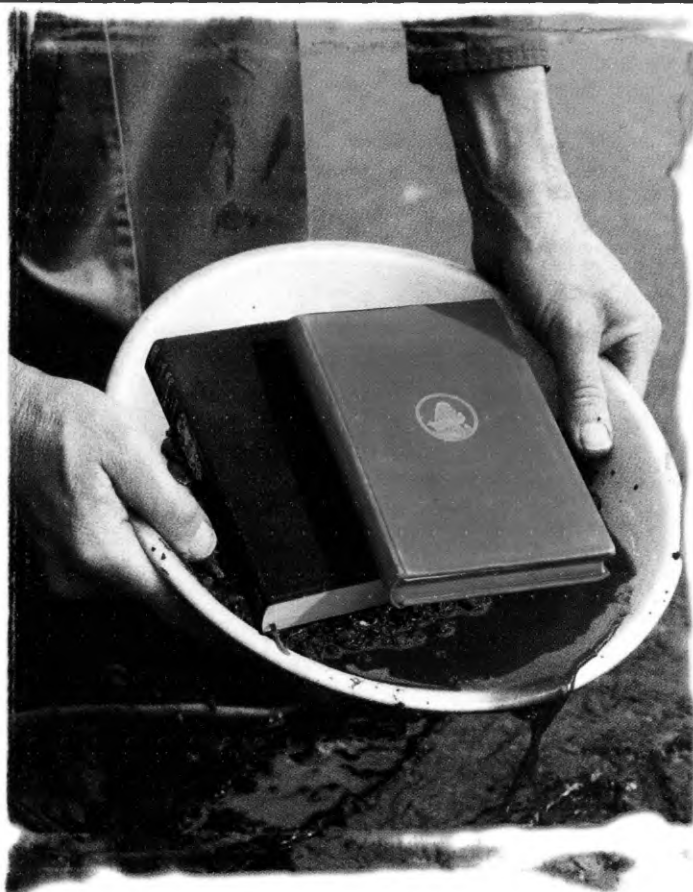
The *Copyright Amendment (Digital Agenda) Act* updates copyright law to ensure it provides the same protections in an electronic environment as exist for hard

copy. For example, musicians whose music is distributed online without their permission will be able to take action to stop it, in the same way as they can if pirate CDs are sold over the counter.

Forwarding a personal e-mail is unlikely to breach copyright laws. A court would need to find that the contents of the e-mail were an 'original literary work'. For example, if the e-mail was simply a joke that everyone had been re-hashing for

years, it is doubtful it would have the necessary originality to be protected by copyright. Similarly, a casual exchange of personal information would probably not be original enough to attract copyright.

The Digital Agenda Act will continue to allow users, especially libraries and educational institutions, reasonable access to copyright material through new communications technologies. It will not impose hefty penalties on everyday users of personal e-mail. ■



NB. No books (or librarians!) were harmed during the making of this digitally enhanced advertisement

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