

VIEWPOINT

THE ASSOCIATION is about to embark on a new era with the appointment of Susan Acutt as Executive Director. Perhaps some members hold the view that an Executive Director should have little effect on the direction the Association proceeds – that he or she carries out the wishes of the members but should not set the path.

Certainly the Association exists, in large measure, for the collegiate good of its members and therefore their wishes must be interpreted and fulfilled. But do the members have common needs and priorities? The answer must be 'no', and an examination of correspondence from individuals and divisions makes that quite clear. Goals may be common, but our methods of achieving them may be quite diverse.

One of the tasks of an Executive Director is to try to ascertain the commonality of interests and policy interpretations of members. The role is a taxing one because, as in all areas of human endeavour, the shades of grey are numerous and the black and the white at times vehemently different.

From her constantly updated knowledge of members' needs and wishes the Executive Director is also placed in a position of advising on policy directions for the Association. In a living and healthy Association such policies should be constantly under review in order to meet the changing needs of the society we purport to serve.

The Executive Committee, acting on behalf of General Council, is unanimous in its belief that Susan Acutt has the qualities and the understanding of the Association's affairs to enable her to serve with skill the cause of members for the next three years. She will bring her own brand of enthusiasm and commitment and no doubt this will become evident very quickly.

In welcoming Susan to her new role I wish also, on behalf of all members, to express sincere gratitude to Sue Phillips for her splendid work as Acting Executive Director for the past few months. That task was accomplished with minimum disruption at a time of considerable strain. The thanks of all members must go to Sue and her staff for maintaining a high level of service despite the difficulties of moving to new premises before remodelling was completed.

Jim Dwyer
LAA President

'Shocking' contact with books

WHEN THE MOBILE LIBRARY from the Corangamite Regional Library service, Vic, arrived at its Peterborough site in the Shire of Warrnambool recently, the electrical equipment on the unit, photocharger, lights, etc failed to operate. While the library officer was checking for the possible cause, two borrowers entered the mobile but a third stepping onto the steel entrance steps in bare feet from wet grass received a tremendous electrical shock and was thrown clear of the steps. Fortunately the borrower was only shaken but otherwise okay.

From Library Council of Victoria, *PLD News*, issue 2, May 1981

Copyright in non-book materials

AT A MEETING held on 22 May 1981, the Executive of the LAA expressed 'support in principle' for a 'Statement on Copyright in Nonbook Materials' prepared by the Audiovisual Services Committee of the Association.

The draft statement has been developed over the past three years. It incorporates a number of ideas from Paul McNally's article on copyright in *The Australian Library Journal* (17 November 1978), and others developed during participation (1978-80) in the Committee on Audio and Video Reproduction and Copyright of the Australian Copyright Council (see separate review in this issue).

Further suggestions came from the Copyright Session organised by the AV Services Committee at the 1979 Canberra LAA Conference when 90 people, including representatives of the Attorney-General's Department and the Australian Copyright Council, attended.

In addition, the AV Services Committee considered written submissions received after a draft of the Statement was circulated to branches and special interest groups of the Association.

After considering such issues as 'fair dealing', and copying for preservation, research, study and interlibrary loan, the Statement '... strongly recommends a statutory blanket licensing system should apply to the copying of AV materials ... by publicly funded libraries, and by the libraries of educational institutions', (Para. 2.11) and that 'The licence should be granted on application and payment of an annual fee' (Para. 2.12).

Special recognition is given to broadcast media 'Study of the nature and content of the broadcast media has an important place in modern education. The licence should confer the right to record one copy of any radio or television broadcast without prior negotiation and retain it indefinitely for educational use within the institution concerned as well as the right to lend each copy for the purposes of educational instruction, research and study of clientele of the institution eg the staff and students of an educational institution' (Para. 2.14).

(Para. 2.16) recommends as a solution to another recurrent problem: 'The licence should also confer the right on the library of an educational institution and on a publicly funded library, in the event of non-availability through normal commercial channels within reasonable time of nonbook materials in a format suited to its needs, to transfer nonbook items it has purchased to another format, eg gramophone record to sound cassette and 16mm motion picture to videocassette, for the sake of ease and convenience of use and to accommodate the items to the type of equipment available in the institution, providing the originals are not used as working copies, and that under the terms of this licence only one working copy in the new format is made of any purchased original'.

The Statement specifically recommends against *multiple* copying without permission of the copyright owner, and against public access to video and audio tape copying machines in libraries in the case of copyright material.

In preparing the Statement the AV Services Committee has endeavoured to make recommendations that take into account the realities of modern technology, its potential for educational use, and the needs of users. The Statement does not attempt to spell out all the details of ways in which recommendations could be implemented.

It is felt that the Statement comes at an appropriate time – a time when librarians, teachers and others might be pressured to accept the notion that the Copyright Amendment Act, 1980, no 154 is the last word on AV copyright. It is emphatically not. The amended Copyright Act is still quite inadequate when it comes to audiovisual or 'nonbook' needs of libraries and their users.

No doubt many organisations and institutions have a similar view.

Librarians anxious to press for further AV copyright legislation will wish to read the AV Services Committee Statement in full. Copies may be obtained from: Library Association of Australia, 473 Elizabeth Street Surry Hills, NSW 2010. Telephone (02) 698 4100.

H. F. Cornelius

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