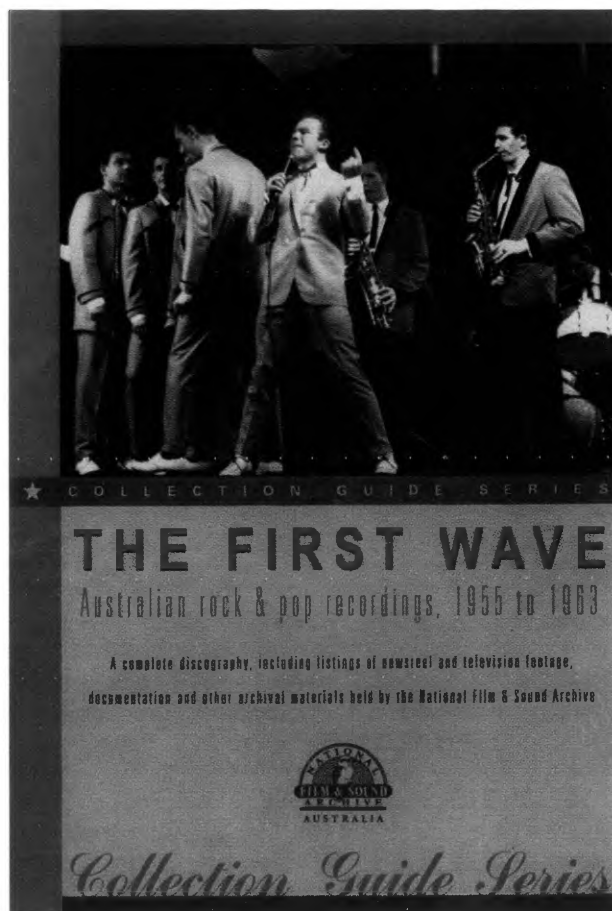


Collection guides

The National Film and Sound Archive collects and preserves a large collection of audiovisual material dating from the 1890s to the present day. The Archive uses the integrated collection management system MAVIS (Merged Audio Visual Information System) to accession and catalogue moving image, recorded sound and documentation material in a consistent manner. Currently 325 000 individual items are described in MAVIS including all formats of film, video, audio tape, disc, documentation and electronic media. The 'catalogue' is accessible through the CD-ROM 'Cultural connections' and the Archive is planning to make MAVIS accessible through the internet in 1999.

To supplement the CD-ROM catalogue the Archive produces printed collection guides to target specific areas of the collection for more detailed description. The printed guides meet several needs: the quality of data entry is improved; access is promoted to targeted areas of the collection; specific client requests are satisfied by researching and drawing together information not easily accessed through subject and keyword searches; a specific 'hard copy' market is reached; exhibitions are accompanied by relevant research and information; and the copying of preservation material is prioritised and advanced.

The guides cover a variety of subject areas and formats, for example, *Silent film*, *Charles Chauvel*, *World War II*, *The Cold War* and the latest release *The first wave: Australian rock and pop recordings, 1955 to 1963*. Guides planned for the future include the Archives' holdings of the 1956 Olympics, radio series, jazz, commercially issued Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island sound material, and oral history.



The Guides are available through the Archive shop and are variously priced to recover costs. ■

Call for nominations

Nominations are called for the following officers for 1999 in the New South Wales Library Technicians Section.

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

Returning Officer:

Rosi Pillon
CSIRO Prospect Library
Locked Bag 1
Delivery Centre
Blacktown NSW 2148

Nomination forms are available from the New South Wales Library Technicians Section or ALIA National Office. Forms must be signed by a nominator, a seconder and by the nominee and reach the Returning Officer by **1 September 1998**.

So, is there anything scary in *Peter and the Wolf*?

The review of the *Publications Classifications Guidelines*

Finding a balance between the provision of access to information, including information within controversial sources, and respecting the diverse sensitivities of library clients is a vexed issue for those working in the library and information sector. The classification ratings provided for films and computer games guide professionals and clients on content which may have an adverse impact on some clients. By contrast, publications are only rated when they deal with themes which are considered unsuitable for certain age groups. In order to more clearly define themes which are subject to such restrictions, the Office of Film and Literature Classification is currently reviewing its *Publications classification guidelines*, a document which details the application of principles established by the Commonwealth of Australia's *National classification code 1995*.

The objective of revising the *Publications classification guidelines* is to provide the Classification Board with

clear guidance on the probable impact of published material. While the current *Classification guidelines* mainly focus upon the portrayal of sex and nudity, the draft revision clarifies and expands upon on all elements which might contribute to the impact of a publication, including the portrayal of violence, drug use and other adult themes. The draft revision of the *Publications classification guidelines* also recognises that photographs, illustrations and text each have a particular impact upon the reader.

The Australian Library and Information Association recently made a submission to this review, noting that the principles established by the *National classification code* and the Association's policy position on such issues, as set out in the *Statement on Freedom to Read*, both presume that freedom of access to information is central to Australian society. The Association's submission also noted the difficulty of defining the standard by which material is judged to be offensive. ■