

Lights, camera, action!

The complexities of audio-visual copyright are explored by Colette Ormonde, ALIA copyright advisory service

The viewing and copying of films and videos or listening to recorded music in libraries is, of course, subject to copyright. One user may view a video under fair-dealing provisions, but a group of viewers in a library or classroom requires permission from the copyright owner or a licence to view. Online transmission of this material via an intranet and other electronic uses are also subject to special permission.

Addresses of the major copyright owners may be on the video or film or obtainable through the usual sources, such as the telephone book or the internet. Producers and distributors include Disney Corporation, Village Roadshow, Ronin Films, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Cinemedia, Film Australia, State film centres and the Australian Children's Film Foundation.

The authorised audio-visual copyright collecting society is Screenrights, a non-profit organisation which provides access to audio-visual material where it is either difficult or impossible to obtain individual clearances for the use of the material.

Ownership and rights management of audio-visual material is more complicated than that for text. The film, the script and the music may be individually owned. Where the subject matter covers current affairs or news, there may be copyright material owned by different rights holders embedded in the main film. This is particularly so for material recorded from the ABC or SBS who themselves have incorpo-

rated material from other sources. Their licences to do this do not automatically transmit use rights to third parties.

Music performances on video or film may be separately covered by the Australasian Performing Rights Association (APRA) or the Australian Record Industry Association (ARIA).

Australian law also protects the moral rights of each creator, even when the copyright is owned by one company. Those rights, unless specifically contracted out, remain with the creators and include the right of acknowledgment and the right against derogatory use.

Screenrights has been particularly active in licencing educational and governmental uses of audio-visual material in Australia and New Zealand. It also handles the use of free-to-air material re-broadcast by pay-television operators. Its licences include the right to play copied programs via a video reticulation system or to make programs available online.

Off the air, the newsletter produced by Screenrights, contains more information about the organisation's activities and useful material, no doubt triggered by their role in education, pointing to interesting information guides and websites.

They also have information about indigenous copyright issues in their area of coverage.

Contact details for Screenrights are: Level 3, 156 Military Road, Neutral Bay NSW 2089, phone 02 9904 0133, info@screen.org, <http://www.screen.org>. ■

Do you want to work in the UK?

TFPL is a UK based Recruitment Agency specialising in the Library, Information, Records and Knowledge Management Sector. We have Temporary/Contract vacancies ranging from one day to two years.

If you are interested in working throughout the UK please contact Jayne Garner, Keri Weekes, Luisa Jefford or Anna Acland on **020 7251 5522** on your arrival or when you require work during your stay.



www.tfpl.com

TFPL Recruitment, 17-18 Britton Street, London EC1M 5TL

Ph: +44 020 7251 5522 Fax: +44 020 7336 0605 e-mail: recruitment@tfpl.com

MAP 4093