

## The copyright agenda

*More than ever, keeping tabs on copyright issues is a critical business task for library and information services. And that's just what the Australian Digital Alliance (ADA) and Australian Libraries Copyright Committee (ALCC) are doing.*

The ADA and the ALCC are the library and information sector's peak copyright advocacy groups. The ADA is a non-profit coalition of public and private sector interests formed to promote balanced copyright law and provide an effective voice for a public interest perspective in the copyright debate. ADA members include universities, schools, consumer groups, galleries, museums, information technology companies, scientific and other research organisations, libraries, and individuals.

The ALCC is the main consultative body and policy forum for the discussion of copyright issues affecting Australian libraries and archives. It is a cross-sectoral committee and represents ALIA, the Australian Government Libraries Information Network, Council of Australasian Archives and Records Authorities, Australian Society of Archivists, Council of Australian University Librarians, National Library of Australia, and National and State Libraries Australasia.

This year, the ADA and ALCC will be primarily focusing on the Australian Law Reform's review of the Copyright Act, which will consider whether existing copyright exceptions are adequate and appropriate in the digital age. In addition to other domestic policy submissions and activities, the ADA and ALCC will also be providing input into discussions at the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and IFLA World Library Congress on copyright issues affecting libraries in Australia. WIPO is currently undertaking text-based work on copyright exceptions for libraries and archives, and the ADA and ALCC will be present at WIPO's next meeting with member states in Geneva in July of this year.

Hot issues such as the recent iNet and Optus cases which have been debated in the media are monitored by the ALCC as well as issues core to the library and information services community, for example the extension of legal deposit to encompass digital content. ALIA members can keep up with these and more through the *Keeping up with Copyright* information bulletin ([www.alia.org.au/advocacy/copyright](http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy/copyright)).

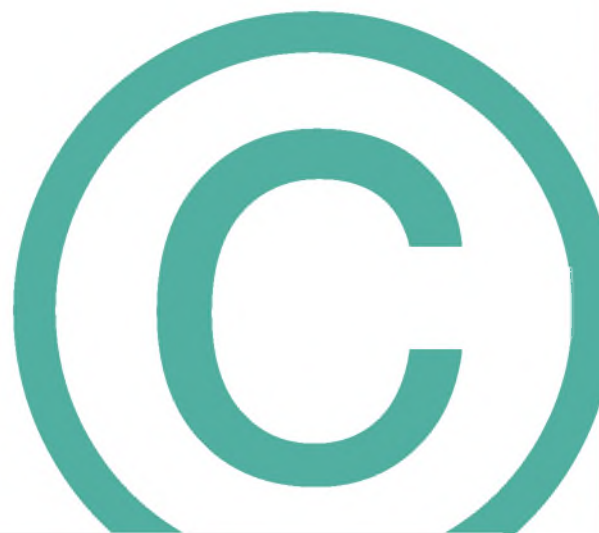
The ALCC also conducts free copyright training for ALCC and ALIA members in capital cities as well as two regional destinations around Australia each year. So far this year training courses have been presented in Canberra and Perth for library and information services staff across the schools, university, state, and government sectors. This will be followed by Hobart this month, with dates for training in Brisbane, Townsville and Melbourne all being scheduled in the second part of this year.

And catch up with some of the latest developments in copyright at the ALIA Biennial 2012 Conference session *Digitising Orphan Works – The Road To Serendipitous Discovery*.

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The ALIA copyright advisory service provides members with up-to-date information on copyright and how it affects the library and information sector. The service responds to members' queries about implementing their obligations under copyright and intellectual property law. For more information, visit [www.alia.org.au/advocacy/copyright](http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy/copyright)