



# Copyright in Australia: information sources

December 2005

In this information sheet we give a brief overview of resources that may be useful to students, practitioners and other people looking for information about copyright law.

For information about our other information sheets, other publications and training program, see our website <http://www.copyright.org.au> or contact us (see contact details at the bottom of the page).

**The purpose of this information sheet is to give general introductory information about copyright. If you need to know how the law applies in a particular situation, please get advice from a lawyer.**

We update our information sheets from time to time. Check our website to make sure this is the most recent version.

## Information from the Australian Copyright Council

### Information Sheets

We publish a series of information sheets, including *An introduction to copyright in Australia*, *Copyright collecting societies*, and *Copyright protection in other countries*. All of these are available on our website at <http://www.copyright.org.au>. If you do not have internet access at home, you can get access at libraries and at internet cafes.

Alternatively, we sell printed copies to Australian customers for AUD\$7.00 each (we may be able to offer a discounted price for multiple copies of an information sheet).

Contact our Customer Service staff on (02) 9699 3247 if you wish to order printed copies or if you want information about which information sheet might be most relevant to you.

### Books: Practical Guides and Discussion Papers

We publish a range of practical guides and discussion papers. Brief summaries and the tables of contents of our books are available on our website at <http://www.copyright.org.au>.

Our books are also held in a number of libraries. If your local library does not have a publication in its collection, it may be able to borrow it for you as an inter-library loan.

### Copyright Reporter

We publish *Copyright Reporter*, a professional journal for copyright practitioners. There are four issues a year, each containing material such as articles, case notes and book reviews. Subscriptions and single copies may be ordered from us through our website at <http://www.copyright.org.au>.

*Copyright Reporter* is also held in a number of libraries. If your local library does not subscribe to *Copyright Reporter*, it may be able to obtain a volume for you as an inter-library loan.

## Copyright Update

We publish *Copyright Update* six times a year. Each edition contains material such as summaries of recent cases, articles and current news items. Subscriptions and single copies may be ordered from us through our website at <http://www.copyright.org.au>.

## Use of the Australian Copyright Council's library

We have a wide range of materials related to copyright in our library, including Australian and foreign legislation, explanatory memoranda, second reading speeches, Australian and international journals and case law. Students and researchers may use the library by appointment, particularly where material is not readily available elsewhere. Please telephone us on (02) 9699 3247 to discuss access to the collection.

## Legal text books & loose leaf services

For detailed information, you may wish to consult relevant textbooks and loose leaf services. These are held in most university law libraries and some other libraries.

### Loose leaf services

- *Australian Industrial & Intellectual Property*, (edited by A Liberman) CCH Australia Ltd
- *Copyright & Designs*, (edited by J Lahore) Butterworths
- *Halsbury's Laws of Australia*, Vol 15, Insurance to Intellectual Property (intellectual property title coordinated by J Lahore), Butterworths
- *The Law of Intellectual Property: Copyright, Designs & Confidential Information*, (edited by S Ricketson and C Creswell) LBC Information Services.

### Text books

- Ricketson S and Richardson M, *Intellectual Property: Cases, Materials and Commentary* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed) (revised), Butterworths, 2002
- McKeough J, Bowrey K and Griffith P, *Intellectual Property: Commentary and Materials* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed), Law Book Company, 2002
- Gilbert + Tobin, *Practical Guide to Australian Copyright Law*, Law Book Company, 2003
- Fitzgerald A and Fitzgerald B, *Intellectual Property: In Principle*, Law Book Company, 2004
- McKeough J, Stewart A and Griffith A *Intellectual Property in Australia* (3rd ed), Butterworths, 2004
- Fitzgerald A, *Intellectual Property* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed), Law Book Company, 2002
- McKeough J, *Intellectual Property* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed) Butterworths 1998

### Other books which include information about copyright

Many other books include information about copyright. Examples include:

- McGinness P, *Intellectual Property Commercialisation: A Business Manager's Companion*, Butterworths, 2003
- Loughlan P, *Intellectual Property: Creative and Marketing Rights*, Law Book Company, 1998
- Calvert M, *Technology Contracts: A Handbook for Law and Business in Australia*, (2nd ed) Butterworths, 2002
- Simpson S, *Music Business*, (2nd ed) Omnibus Press, Sydney, 2002
- Armstrong M, Lindsay D and Watterson R, *Media Law in Australia* (3rd ed), Oxford University Press, 1995
- *Introduction to Book Publishing*, Australian Publishers Association, 1997

You may be able to access copies of these books via a library. Take care with older publications, however, as they will not include information on changes in copyright law such as those resulting from the Moral Rights, Digital Agenda and Australia-US Free Trade Agreement amendments.

See our information sheets *Moral Rights*, *Digital Agenda Act amendments* and *Free Trade Agreement amendments* for general information on these amendments. For more detailed information on these amendments see our books *Moral Rights* and *Digital Agenda Amendments* and our forthcoming book *Free Trade Agreement Amendments*.

## The internet

There is a considerable amount of information about copyright available on the internet. In addition to our own website at <http://www.copyright.org.au>, some useful websites include those operated by the following:

- *Arts Law Centre of Australia*: <http://www.artslaw.com.au> (provides information sheets on copyright and other issues for professional creators);
- *Attorney-General's Department*: <http://www.ag.gov.au> (for intellectual property and copyright law) and [www.law.gov.au](http://www.law.gov.au) (for access to legislation and various publications);
- *OzNet Law*: <http://www.oznetlaw.net> (for general legal information); and
- *Australasian Legal Information Institute*: <http://austlii.edu.au> (for Australian cases and legislation).

Take care, however, if you are accessing material posted to a site from another country. While copyright law adheres to certain minimum standards throughout most of the world, there are nonetheless considerable differences in the way it applies from country to country.

For information on international copyright treaties, some useful sites are:

- International—WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organisation) at <http://www.wipo.int> (for information on international treaties and policy developments for copyright, trade marks, designs and patents); and
- European Union—Europa at <http://europa.eu.int/geninfo/info-en.htm> (for information on European treaties, policy developments and case law).

For information on copyright in other countries, some useful sites are:

- New Zealand—Ministry of Economic Development (Business, Law and Trade) at <http://www.med.govt.nz/about/index.html> (contains an information sheet on copyright law in New Zealand);
- New Zealand—Copyright Council of New Zealand at <http://www.copyright.org.nz> (for general information about copyright);
- United States—Copyright Office at <http://www.copyright.gov> (copyright legislation as well as copyright basics and frequently asked questions);
- United Kingdom—Patents Office at <http://www.patent.gov.uk/copy/index.htm> (general information on copyright history, law and policy); and
- United Kingdom—BAILII (British and Irish Legal Information Institute) at <http://www.bailii.org> (contains case law and legislation for the United Kingdom and Ireland).

## The Copyright Act

You can buy a copy of the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth) and regulations from a number of outlets. For more information see <http://www.publications.gov.au/index.php?legislation>.

Most university law libraries hold a copy of the Act, and copies are also held by some other libraries. The Act is also accessible on <http://www.comlaw.gov.au> and <http://www.austlii.edu.au>.

However, unless you are a lawyer or a law student, you may find that materials which explain the application of copyright law—such as the publications we have listed above—are more useful than the Copyright Act.

## Further information

For further information about copyright, see our website <http://www.copyright.org.au> or contact us.

Information from the Arts Law Centre of Australia may also be of interest to you: see <http://www.artslaw.com.au> or telephone (02) 9356 2566.

## Reproducing this information sheet

You may download and print one copy of this information sheet from our website for your reference, or you may purchase a printed copy from our online shop—<http://shop.copyright.org.au>—or direct from us.

## Australian Copyright Council

**The Australian Copyright Council is a non-profit organisation whose objectives are to:**

- assist creators and other copyright owners to exercise their rights effectively;
- raise awareness in the community about the importance of copyright;
- identify and research areas of copyright law which are inadequate or unfair;
- seek changes to law and practice to enhance the effectiveness and fairness of copyright;
- foster co-operation amongst bodies representing creators and owners of copyright.



*The Australian Copyright Council has been assisted by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, through its Policy, Communication and Planning Division.*

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