

MEDIA RELEASE

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CAVAL launches copyright permissions service

CAVAL has established a new copyright permissions service for the higher education sector. The new service already has one customer and is discussing ways the service can be of assistance to its other members.

CAVAL will provide its members and other universities with:

- A complete permissions seeking service for the use of third-party material within the online learning environment
- Records management of permission documentation, using an in-house database
- A searchable online database of all permissions obtained or requested for a particular institution, including details of expiration and potential renewal.

The impetus for establishing the copyright permissions service was the increasing need for Australian universities to better manage their use of copyright materials.

With increasing use of content found on diverse sources via the internet, there is a heightened risk of breaches of copyright, particularly in the education sector. Although academics and lecturers are in the business of making copies of copyrighted works available to their students, they often lack the expertise to interpret fully the complex legal arrangements governing the use of those copies. Hence, universities are more exposed than ever to potential breaches of copyright which, for large institutions, could lead to major financial and reputational losses.

Australian universities negotiate periodically with the Copyright Agency Ltd (CAL) to obtain statutory licences that permit them to copy works for educational purposes (in the past primarily for photocopying), under the terms of Part VB of the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cwlth). But these licences do not extend, except in specific instances, to copying and reproduction for commercial or promotional purposes (e.g. book publishing, marketing material), format shifting (e.g. digitisation) and the copying of art and audio-visual materials.

CAVAL offers a specific permissions service to universities in support of their teaching and learning and research activities that fills in the gaps in their statutory licences relating to these other purposes.

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Initially, the CAVAL service will focus on copyright permissions for teaching and learning requirements (e.g. course use), e-repositories and format shifting. Future developments will enable online access to a searchable database for academics and copyright compliance staff to monitor progress of permissions requests, verify expirations and check terms and conditions.

Subsequently the service will be expanded to handle permissions requests outside the teaching and learning and library collections areas. Other permissions that could be managed in the future may include performance rights and moral and other cultural rights.

CAVAL

CAVAL is an Australian not-for-profit company established to provide library services to libraries in Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

CAVAL's range of specialised library services are for university libraries, public libraries, special and government libraries including cataloguing and processing, digitisation services and consulting.

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Backgrounder

Friday 23 April 2010 is UNESCO's World Book & Copyright Day. The Day was first celebrated in 1995. April 23 is a symbolic date for world literature for on this date and in the same year of 1616, Cervantes, Shakespeare and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega all died. It is also the date of birth or death of other prominent authors such as Maurice Druon, K.Laxness, Vladimir Nabokov, Josep Pla and Manuel Mejía Vallejo. For further information see:

http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=5125&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

April 10 also marked the 300th anniversary of Copyright commencing with the Statute of Queen Anne coming into force in Britain on April 10 1710. This is generally regarded as the first official Copyright legislation in the world.

For further information and comment:

<http://www.counterpoint-online.org/copyright-1710-2010/>