



ALIA Book Industry and EReading Advisory Committee Annual Report 2016

January 2017

Membership

Chair	Evelyn Woodberry
National & State Libraries	Margaret Allen
Public Libraries	Vanessa Little
Public Libraries	Marian Morgan-Bindon
Public Libraries	Sharan Harvey
National & State Libraries	Amelia McKenzie
Schools	David Feighan
CAUL - University	Alison Pepper

The Committee welcomed new members Marian Morgan-Bindon, City of Gold Coast, and Vanessa Little, ACT Libraries, and thanked retiring member Christine McKenzie, Yarra Plenty, for her contribution.

Meetings

- Meetings were held by teleconference on:
 - 26 February
 - 27 May
 - 26 August
 - 14 September with LIANZA
 - 25 November
- Summary of main discussion points
Ebook pricing models.
Models regarding the supply and pricing of ebooks to public libraries continued to be a point of discussion for each meeting. While there were some changes throughout the year there remained a significant list of issues unresolved.
International developments were monitored, including through the annual teleconference with the LIANZA Standing Committee on Digital Content and EReading, and reports from the

IFLA E-lending Working Party. The report by the Court of Justice of the European Union was important to discussions as it decided that there is no difference between lending a paper book and an e-book. While the decision does not impact directly in Australia it provides leverage with international publishers.

Public Library ebook pricing model

Discussion continued around the value of developing this model with the proposal being referred to the South East Queensland Collection coordinators for their comment and feedback on the benefits of this approach as a project. A decision will be made regarding further work once feedback has been received.

PLR and ebooks

The Committee raised concerns on the lack of progress on the appointment of members to the PLR Committee which has been steadily eroded through lack of replacement of members as terms have expired. A reason for concern raised by the Committee is the outstanding issue of ebooks as they relate to PLR. International developments in countries with PLR programmes have been discussing this issue for some years and making decisions at the national level. Australia's PLR programme is recognised internationally and needs to be addressing this issue as a matter of importance.

Summary of main activities

- Advice provided to the ALIA Board

Book Council of Australia (BCA)

The Committee advised the Board that funding for the Book Council of Australia (BCA) was withdrawn in the mid-year budget and there is no plan to consider other options. As a result the BCA will not eventuate.

- Reports generated

ALIA Position Statement on ebooks and e-lending 2016

The Committee provided the updated statement to the Board taking into consideration developments nationally and internationally.

- **ARC Linkage Project – e-lending in Australia's Public Libraries**

The announcement that the project, led by Dr Rebecca Giblin from Monash University, was successful in its application for funds to investigate e-lending in Australia's public libraries was welcomed by the Committee. The Expert Reference Group (ERG) includes representatives from the Committee whose organisations are supporting the project, Margaret Allen, State

Library of Western Australia, Marian Morgan-Bindon Gold Coast City and the chair as the ALIA representative.

The project has begun the information collection phase with the ERG providing assistance with data and introductions to industry contacts. The project will continue in 2017.

Meetings with stakeholders

Meetings continued to occur with the APA, Overdrive and various industry representatives. These meetings were often held independently of the Committee with members reporting on developments and discussions. This information assisted the Committee in its deliberations with members also using their membership of the Committee to add weight to the discussions.

Alignment with the ALIA Strategic Plan

The work of the Committee contributes across all areas of the Strategic Priorities as outlined in the ALIA Strategic Plan.

Through its engagement with industry partners the Committee advocates on behalf of the library and information sector, particularly in relation to suppliers on issues and strategies necessary to enable effective access to information for ebooks.

The development of position papers assists in the continuing education and professional development of library and information professionals by informing members in areas specific to the Committee's brief.

Through its investigation and monitoring of key issues the Committee recommends on actions which will future proof the policies and practices of the association to ensure it remains sustainable.

Forward plans

Proposed activities:

The Board requested that during 2017 the Advisory Committee

- Keep a watching brief on any research and developments, for example relating to open APIs for library management systems and ebook platforms, to enable improved access to ebook resources.
- Review the position statement within the next 12 months taking into consideration any relevant outcomes from the ARC research project being conducted by Rebecca Giblin on the legal and social dynamics of ebook lending in public libraries.
- Conduct an updated ebooks and e lending survey based on the 2015 survey with additional questions relating to ease of access and barriers to ebook lending

In addition the Committee will:

Contribute to the ARC Linkage project as requested and where it is possible to assist within the scope of ALIA's commitment.

Monitor international developments in ebooks and ebook lending including through links with IFLA Eending Working Party.

Summary of the sector/topic

- The issues around ebooks and eending, which impact on access to information for library users continue to exert pressure on library budgets. While the main impact is on public libraries, work both internationally and nationally will provide cross-sectoral benefits.
- Links to important recent statistics or reports

Court of Justice of the European Union.

A significant report was released by the Court of Justice of the European Union
THE HAGUE – On 10 November, the judges of the European Court decided that there is no difference between lending a paper book and lending an e-book. The European Court of Justice (CJEU) in Luxembourg ruled against the Dutch Public Lending Right Office (Stichting Leenrecht) in the case initiated by the Netherlands Association of Public Libraries (VOB).
<https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2016/06/ebooks-lending-public-libraries-advocate-general-cjeu/>

The end of ownership: Personal Property in the Digital Economy

Aaron Perzanowski and Jason Schultz
Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 2016

Trade eBooks in Libraries: The Changing Landscape

Paul Whitney and Christina de Castell
Berlin/Munich: De Gruyter Saur, 2016