

Australian Law Librarians' Group Publishers' Liaison Report August 2005

1. February – August 2006 activities

Petal Kinder took over as National Publishers' Liaison Coordinator in February 2006 due to the resignation from the Committee of Sue Rigney.

- 1.1 **ASX subscription issues – lack of index** Cindy Martin, South Australia PL Coordinator reported the lack of an index to this service used by most law firm libraries and the proposed fee for requisite binders. A letter was sent to Kristina Czajkowskyj, Subscription Sales Co-Ordinator, Information Services, Australian Stock Exchange in early March. A reply received end of March stated ASX was waiting for further complaints about the lack of the index before they would make a decision on reissuing an Index.

The original letter was then forwarded to the national list asking for signatures to be appended. The letter with 26 names appended was sent again to ASX in April. After repeated phone calls I was told they were still waiting on more people to complain. I feel they are simply stalling and unless pressure is placed on them from major law firms, or a large number of individual lawyers / accountants, the Index will not be reinstated.

Melanie Adam emailed me, 17th May, saying:

'I've been talking to Timebase and they are planning to put the Listing Rules online in a point-in-time format going back about 10 years (at least to begin with). This is great news. Your email prompted me to suggest to them that the subject index would be another great value-add to their service, and they were very enthusiastic about including it. So we could possibly have another option to keep the index going, albeit not an 'authorised' one.'

- 1.2 **Statement of Preferred Practices for Publishers** was placed on the ALLG website in May this year. The ALLG list-serv and ALLG ACT list serv were notified. Comments were received from only one person, Elisabeth Swan, expressing concern that perhaps publishers and members had not been consulted. She was advised the Statement had been developed as a result of collaborative discussions between customers and publishers. And that at least two drafts were put to the publishers, and everything discussed with them in some detail.

1.3 **National Licensing Proposal (NLP) Forum.** Roy Jordan attended the 3rd National Licensing Proposal (NLP) Forum held at the National Library on Monday 3 July. This is the second Forum which Roy has attended, (the first was held last year), as a representative of the ALLG. The proposal intends to establish a national panel of online products, arrived at by process of a national tendering and licensing scheme. The agenda, papers and photos from the 3rd Forum are available at:
<http://www.nla.gov.au/initiatives/meetings/sitelicense/3rdnlf.html>.

Roy's report follows:

Participants discussed and endorsed various decisions made by the NLP Reference Group and its subcommittees.

These fell into 5 main categories.

1. Products Sub Committee. The results of a survey sent to library sectors indicated that there was wide support for access to databases in the areas of general reference, news and business affairs. For subject specific databases, the area of health was the top priority. The Forum endorsed the recommendation of this sub committee that initial tenders be called for databases in these subject areas.

2. Pricing Sub Committee. A draft pricing model was sent out to library sectors in April for comment. This will be used by vendors for setting their prices in the tender process. Prices for special libraries would probably be determined by acquisitions budget although the Forum is asking vendors to provide other criteria which they consider would be viable. The Forum endorsed the pricing models. Also considered were 4 models of library/vendor agreements. Although a system which is used in New Zealand, whereby the National Library procures products on behalf of libraries (Model 1) was the preferred long term option, the Forum endorsed a scheme whereby individual libraries selected products from the panel products selected after tender and paid the vendors themselves (Model 3). This model provided the lowest risk for the National Library in terms of monetary commitment, obviated the need for ministerial approval and provided flexibility for participating libraries.

3. Governance Sub Committee. A draft administrative structure has been drafted consisting of a membership forum, an executive committee, an executive officer and ad hoc working parties. Membership will be open to any entity or organisation which formally represents libraries. As the ALLG would be eligible for membership,

a decision will need to be made by National Executive as to whether the ALLG should join the consortium either from the outset or at a later stage. A final administrative structure will be worked on by the Sub Committee.

4. Communication Sub Committee. This Committee reported on issues relating to a proposed name of the consortium (Electronic Resources Australia (ERA)?), publicity and a product launch, scheduled for 2007. We were all urged to publicise the NLP website (<http://www.nla.gov.au/nlp/index.html>) and the discussion list (<http://listserver.nla.gov.au/wws/subrequest/nlp-l>) and to ensure publishers were aware of the project. I have been contacting major law publishers to ensure they are aware of the project. It would be useful if at least one person in each law library was a subscriber to the NLP discussion list, although I shall try to place major announcements on the law library discussion list.

5. Request for Tender (RFT). A confidential draft RFT was tabled at the Forum which would call for bids from publishers in order to create a panel of products and prices in the areas of news and business affairs and health. The final RFT should be ready within the next few weeks and widely advertised. A tender evaluation panel has been endorsed by the Forum and consists of representatives from 11 library sectors.

Forward timetable.

It is expected that these will be the next developments:

2006 July-August. Release of RFT.

2006 August-September. Tender evaluation and selection of panel products.

2006 September. Preliminary announcement or launch at the ALIA conference.

2007 May. Review of progress. Major stand alone launch to be planned.

Vendor information session.

An invitation to publishers to attend a vendor information session was placed in the tender section of the Weekend Australian. The session took place straight after the Forum and attracted several publishers. Law publishers did not attend, although 2 reps from Thomson Gale were present. A PowerPoint presentation which was made to the publishers is available at:

<<http://www.nla.gov.au/nlp/documents/NLPRFTVendorinformationsession.ppt>>

1.4 **ComLaw.** A further session with ACT members and ComLaw was organised in August. Approx 20 people attended the session presented by Simon Hine. James Graham, First Assistant Secretary, was also in attendance to answer queries. All State Publishers' liaison coordinators were invited to attend the session in Canberra, however, only Margaret McAleese from NSW was able to attend. A set of comments/question were given to ComLaw prior to the meeting. Simon Hine promised to reply by the 21 August. At the meeting Simon stated that there were problems with the search engine and also with the layout of the site. He said these problems were being addressed, and the layout should be revised by sometime in September.

ComLaw has been informed that South Australia also is interested in meeting with them. The contact details of the SA PL, Cindy Martin, has been forwarded to them.

2. State Representatives

ACT - Roy Jordan

NSW - Margaret McAleese

NT - Coleen Harris

QLD - Vacant as at 27 July 06

SA - Cindy Martin

Tas - Merylyn Evans

Vic - Miz Brmbota

WA - Natalie McDonald

3. 2006 Priorities

3.1 Revise PL section of website

3.2 Continue to improve communication with publishers

3.3 Development of guidelines and clauses for contracts

3.4 License negotiation guidelines

Petal Kinder

National Publishers' Liaison Coordinator – August 2006