

Book Reviews

**Copyright – Interpreting the law for libraries, archives and information services 4th ed
Graham Cornish. London: Facet Publishing,
2004 ISBN 1-85604-508-0 207pp £24.95**

Copyright – Interpreting the law for libraries, archives and information services by Graham Cornish is the 4th Edition of a well-established publication. Specifically designed as a desktop reference and working tool, this reference work can be used by practicing information professionals from junior counter staff to senior managers alike. Published by FACET this is a timely update following the implementation of the EU Copyright Directive and adds to other works in this area such as *Practical Copyright for Information Professionals – The CILIP Handbook* by Sandy Norman published earlier in 2004.

The writer, Graham Cornish, is an ex-president of CILIP and has a strong practical background in this area. This includes time as a Programme Director for the IFLA Availability of Publications Programme, responsibility for copyright interpretation throughout the British Library and involvement in a number of initiatives designing and implementing Electronic Copyright Management systems.

The context of the publication is laid out at the beginning and it is made clear that this is not intended to deal with wider aspects of intellectual property such as patents. Neither is it an academic study or case law reference. Set out in 12 sections, Cornish starts with definition and law, coverage of copyright and moving on to rights and limitations in relation to the topic (Sections 1-3). He then looks at specific media and areas (Sections 4-12). Coverage of literary, dramatic and musical works (Section 4) is obviously of great interest to public libraries and as a consequence is the largest section. However sound recordings, films, broadcasts, databases, computer programmes, electronic materials and websites are also covered in subsequent chapters. Licensing schemes and other matters such as Treaties and Public Lending Right also have their own separate treatment. There are 4 appendices with useful addresses, publications, websites, examples of differentiation between commercial and non commercial use and statutory declaration forms. All of these, particularly the latter, support the practical nature of this work.

However, the key feature of this work is the format. Comprising 722 numbered paragraphs that are cross-referenced within the text itself and presented as a series of Questions and Answers in relation to

copyright; this is very much at the core of the works' usefulness as reference tool.

The questions can be very general such as "What is ownership of Copyright?" (Para. 30) or "What is the definition of a database?" (Para. 577). They can also drill down to some very specific points such as in Paragraph 701; " But supposing a document is put on the World Wide Web and nobody ever downloads it? Is this still an infringement?" For those of you still wondering the answer is yes- unless, of course, the person issuing the copies has the right to do so.

This question and answer format is a facility that is extremely useful in attempting to 'break-down' the topic areas into accessible points that may answer a specific question.

The overall chapter arrangement entails that topics are further subdivided into subject areas. For instance, in Literary, Dramatic and Musical Works (Section 4) this progressively subdivides into further areas including Definitions, Owners Rights, Duration etc with further topical sub-divisions as appropriate underneath these narrower terms. Headings differ relating to the topic and the headings already mentioned do not necessarily represent a controlled indexing that is applied to the work as a whole. Nonetheless this can help organise your reading. For instance if you were looking for Literary Works; defining in the index you would be directed to paragraph 56 - What is a literary work?" However, the subsequent paragraphs: - "57 - Does literary mean it has to be good quality literature?" then "58 -What about databases? Are these covered as copyright?" et al can almost be treated as mini essays on the topic. Alternatively you can simply look directly for topics on the question you are looking for such as Paragraph 59 "Are Bibliographic Records covered by Copyright?"

In many ways this is where this publication excels in its utility. Indeed this is augmented when making cross-references from topic to topic; for instance the reader is re-directed to issues relating to music (Paragraphs 63-65) when considering how a popular song should be treated in relation to a consideration of 'literary works'. This hypertext feel and design complements the general subject matter insofar as the complexity of examples in copyright issues can require such an approach. However you are dependent on the finite nature of the indexing and inevitably this will lead to some gems remaining locked in the text. This does lead one to yearn for an interactive electronic copy at times with free text search – particularly as it is such a useful work. However overall indexing and cross-referencing facilitates this process well and important topics

such as licensing schemes are indexed extensively by broad areas and specific reference to schemes from BLDSC to OUEE where required.

A disappointment for UkelG members might be the use of only 15 pages in covering "Section 11- Computer programmes, electronic materials and websites". Graham Cornish notes that many of the topics that arise in the electronic world are "exactly the same as in the more traditional paper-based world" (p161). However he also points out that this is a 'constantly changing situation' (p160). Readers may as such need to look elsewhere for an up to date and comprehensive account of the world of electronic copyright. One other area that I was surprised to see little reference to was Freedom of Information however, whilst not a copyright issue in itself it may have been worth some additional comment in terms of practical issues/dilemmas that that may arise for information profession when this comes into place. Perhaps this may be better for the 5th Edition? Though Cornish is clear in noting that freedom of information doesn't change the right of copyright owners.

The appendices are quite slim, useful addresses and further sources of information are just that – they are not intended to be definitive contact lists or bibliographies. However, whilst the real value in this publication is in the text and the indexing, the addition of copies Statutory Declaration forms are welcome, particularly for those of us who have worked in independent information services.

All in all, the 207 pages of this publication, with 722 separate paragraphs, mean that at £24.95 this is a real timesaver for the general practitioner attempting to get a quick fix on the day-to-day issues that they may be bombarded with in the context of copyright. This work would be, in the reviewer opinion, essential for public and academic libraries and definitely of interest to a variety of specialist information services. However, those who are particularly interested in electronic copyright will definitely need to augment this with other reading and perhaps training as the environment changes.

Robert Hughes

Books waiting for review

The following book from Facet Publishing is waiting a reviewer - please contact [Peter Chapman](#) if you would like to do it.

Curtis E-Journals A how-to-do-it manual for building, managing and supporting electronic journal collections

Press Releases

JISC funding gives Oxford Journals new boost for Open Access experiments

A press release

Oxford Journals today (12 January 2005) announced that two of its most prestigious titles have been granted a total of £60,000 to help fund continued experimentation with Open Access.

Nucleic Acids Research (NAR) and the *Journal of Experimental Botany* both applied for the funding from JISC (the Joint Information Systems Committee, a committee of the UK further and higher education funding bodies) in response to its Open Access Publishing Initiative Invitation to Tender. Each journal has been awarded £30,000 of funding.

This is the second round of funding awarded by JISC to publishers moving towards or already working with Open Access content delivery. The first round awarded £150,000 to four publishers. In this second round, five bids were successful, including both of those submitted by journals from the Oxford Journals portfolio.

NAR is the largest journal owned and published by Oxford University Press. It has been trialling a partial Open Access system in 2004 and moves to a full Open Access model in 2005 -- the first established journal of this stature to make such a move. The funding allocated by JISC will allow NAR to waive its £300 charge per article for eligible UK authors based at NAR member institutions, and to offer eligible UK authors at non-member institutions a discounted charge per article of £600.

Oxford Journals has been taking a proactive approach towards experimenting with Open Access and the possibilities this new business model offers. However moving such an established journal to a financially viable full Open Access model is a considerable challenge:

Presenting the bid, Claire Saxby, Biosciences Editor at Oxford Journals said, "If we were to rely solely on income from author charges to fund NAR as an Open Access journal, it is likely that the charges required would only be accessible to the best-funded researchers at present. With this in mind we have developed a model for NAR which combines a variety of funding sources to help subsidise author charges. We are learning a great deal from our experiments so far."

"We are delighted that JISC is supporting our Open