

Budget allocation to boost access to cultural collections and research

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For immediate release

Canberra, Australia—The Australian Libraries Copyright Committee (ALCC) welcomes the allocation of \$22.9 million in additional funds to support Australia’s national cultural institutions and a further \$8.9 million for humanities research infrastructure included in the Federal Budget announced last night.

An earlier [media release](#) issued by the Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP earmarked funding to help mitigate lost revenue from reduced visitor numbers at national cultural institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Minister Fletcher said the funding would allow the cultural collections to ‘continue to showcase Australian history, culture and art to the public, in person and online.’

The additional \$8.9 million will increase the capabilities of Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences and Indigenous research platforms and improve the way researchers discover, access, curate and analyse Australia’s social, cultural, heritage and Indigenous data.

‘The Government’s commitment to supporting our national cultural institutions and expanding the availability of high quality data for researchers is commendable,’ ALCC Copyright Law and Policy Adviser Ben Rice said.

‘The next step is to ensure that the copyright system appropriately supports making collection material and research outputs available online.’

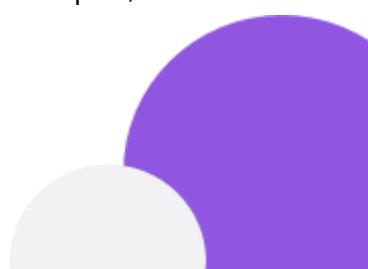
Reforms to the *Copyright Act* [announced](#) in August will introduce much needed changes to copyright to make it easier for libraries and archives to share their collections with the public and for research bodies to quickly share their research outputs online.

‘Digitisation is incredibly important, but collecting institutions must also be able to confidently make that content available online,’ Mr Rice said.

The ALCC looks forward to participating in public consultation when draft legislation is released.

For more information about the announcement see the [media release](#) issued by the Minister Fletcher on Saturday 26 September 2020. More information on the Copyright access reforms is available on Minister Fletcher’s [website](#) and on the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications [website](#).

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Interviews and media contact

Mr Rice is available for interviews by request. All media inquiries related to this media release should be directed to:

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Link: libcopyright.org.au/cultural-collections-budget-2020-21-media-release

About the Australian Libraries Copyright Committee

The Australian Library Copyright Committee (ALCC) is the main consultative body and policy forum for the discussion of copyright issues affecting Australian libraries and archives. It is a cross-sectoral committee with members representing the following organisations:

- [Australian Library and Information Association \(ALIA\)](#)
- [National and State Libraries Australasia \(NSLA\)](#)
- [Council of Australian University Librarians \(CAUL\)](#)
- [National Library of Australia \(NLA\)](#)
- [Australian Government Libraries Information Network \(AGLIN\)](#)
- [National Archives of Australia \(NAA\)](#)
- [Australian Society of Archivists \(ASA\)](#)
- [Australian School Library Association \(ASLA\)](#)
- [NSW Public Library Association \(NSWPLA\)](#)

We offer informed contributions to domestic and international copyright law and policy discussions and organise copyright education, including training and online information resources targeted at the library and archive sectors.

The ALCC and its members support a copyright framework that appropriately protects the interests of right holders while ensuring access to important cultural, educational and historic content for the public's benefit.