

Sarah Powell appointed as new ALACC Copyright Law and Policy Adviser

Tuesday 5 April 2022
For immediate release

Canberra, Australia—The Management Committee of the Australian Libraries and Archives Copyright Committee (ALACC) is delighted that Sarah Powell has joined the organisation as our new Copyright Law and Policy Adviser. Sarah will commence in the role on Monday 9 May 2022.

ALACC Chairperson Justine Heazlewood said Ms Powell was selected for the position based on her extensive experience and her leadership in advocating for law reform in New Zealand.

“Sarah’s well-honed copyright knowledge and experience – especially in relation to the copyright realities experienced by libraries and archives – makes her an outstanding choice to lead the ALACC as we continue to push for reform,” she said.

Ms Powell was instrumental in copyright reform in New Zealand, where she chaired the LIANZA Standing Committee on Copyright from 2019–2021 and was an active member of the Universities NZ Copyright Expert Advisory Group. Ms Powell contributed to the submissions by those bodies to the Review of the New Zealand Copyright Act which commenced in 2018.

“Consultation on the government’s access reforms reminds us that libraries, archives and cultural collections are wrapped in copyright ‘red tape’, while communities such as regional and remote library users continue to receive inequitable access to their collections and services,” Ms Heazlewood said.

“I and ALACC members warmly welcome Sarah to the ALACC and look forward to working closely with her to continue to be the voice for libraries and archives in relation to the copyright issues affecting them.”

Ms Powell is currently studying law at Victoria University in Wellington. Prior to joining the ADA, she was employed by AJ Park, a legal firm specialising in intellectual property. She has also held the role of Copyright and Open Access Adviser at Auckland University of Technology (2018–2021) and Rights Specialist at Auckland War Memorial Museum (2015–2018).

Commenting on the appointment, Ms Powell said she was excited to be taking on the role.

“The work of the ALACC in advocating for copyright policy that helps not hinders the work of libraries and archives is very near to my heart given that the experiences of Australian and New Zealand libraries and archives in relation to copyright are similar,” Ms Powell said.

“Libraries, archives and cultural collections are fundamental to cultural life and a healthy democracy. I look forward to working closely with the Committee and their institutions to continue the push for sensible copyright reform – starting with the access reforms.”

Ms Powell takes over the position from Ben Rice, who led the ALACC from September 2020 to November 2021. Upon commencement, Ms Powell will also take up the position of Executive Officer at the Australian Digital Alliance (ADA).

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Interviews and media contacts

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

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Link: alacc.org.au/sarah-powell-appointment-media-release

About the Australian Libraries and Archives Copyright Committee

The Australian Libraries and Archives Copyright Coalition (ALACC) (formerly the Australian Libraries Copyright Committee (ALCC)) is the main consultative body and policy forum for the discussion of copyright issues affecting Australian libraries and archives. The ALACC has nine organisational members, each of whom nominates a representative to provide advice and reflect the concerns of their members. The organisational members are:

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

The ALACC offers informed contributions to domestic and international copyright law and policy discussions and organises copyright education, including training and online information resources targeted at the library and archive sectors.

The ALACC 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.

More information about the ALACC is available at alacc.org.au/about.