

INNOVATION FOR EDUCATION

We announced the first-ever Reading Australia Fellowship for a teacher of English and Literacy; our new cloud-based course compiler, Flex for Librarians, is being rolled out in colleges; and the online RightsPortal was upgraded to make licence renewal easier.



Reading Australia Fellowship

Alex Wharton (pictured), from Carinya Christian School in Gunnedah, NSW, was awarded the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund's first Reading Australia Fellowship for a Teacher of English and Literacy.

The Fellowship provides \$15,000 for a career-enhancing research project which can be shared with other teachers to further the profession. Alex's research project will explore best practice around teaching Indigenous literature in the classroom to develop a greater understanding of the issues, protocols and sensitivities involved.

Reading Australia added 22 new teacher resources during the year and newsletter subscribers have increased 20% to 16,500 per issue.

readingaustralia.com.au



RightsPortal for Private Education Providers

Copyright Agency introduced a new online service to help our licensed Private Education Providers to easily apply for and update their copyright licences. More than 1000 PEPs used it to update their agreements in February and March 2019.

rightsportal.com.au

Flex for Librarians

The new cloud-based tool Flex was under development in 2018, and in 2019, multiple private colleges have begun using it to access a wide variety of high quality education material, and compile copyright-compliant course materials for their students.



National Library Manager at the Australian College of Applied Psychology, Ian Drummond, says, "Flex provides a robust system for managing copyright compliance; compiling course material without reinventing the wheel; and has the added benefit of a central repository for storing and accessing content. Flex has made our jobs easier so we can spend more time on adding value."

Flex for Librarians is available as an inclusion with the Statutory Education Licence.

Major publishers Allen & Unwin, Australian Academic Press, Bloomsbury Publishing, Cengage, CSIRO, HarperCollins, McGraw-Hill, Pearson, PsychOz, Oxford University Press and Wolters Kluwer are providing digital files for use through Flex.

copyright.com.au/flex



Diana Rigg and PLD

The majority of Copyright Agency's royalty payments come from the education sector – schools, universities, TAFE and private education providers. So, naturally, the majority of our payments go to educational publishers, from small local publishers to multinational publishers with Australian offices. All of them are dedicated to creating resources that support educators in their quest to help students achieve their potential.

Diana Rigg, a former teacher who founded Perth publisher PLD, is a great example of the passion that infuses this industry. She has been awarded the Primary Educational Publisher of the Year Award for two consecutive years – 2018 and 2019 – voted for by educators all over Australia.

"We create tools for primary educators to enhance literacy development in young children and we're so grateful to be recognised by teachers across the country," Diana says.

Diana started her career as a teacher in 1992 and recognised early on that her tertiary training had not prepared her for the literacy and learning needs she encountered in the classroom.

While completing a Masters in Education, Diana became aware of the significant lag between the publication of research findings and their eventual application in the curriculum and ultimately the classroom. This motivated Diana to ensure the most current research is finding its way into Australian classroom practises.

In 2007 she started her own speech pathology practice, PLD, initially comprised of speech pathologists focused on servicing children with language and literacy difficulties, but after a year and a half introducing occupational therapists too.

PLD was a clinic, a consultancy and a publishing house. In addition to delivering services to children, the clinic assisted the publishing house by trialling and testing the devised programs. The success of the publishing range can be attributed to the clinic's trialling of the programs.

In 2011, Diana made the decision to close the clinic and focus on the bigger picture – equipping educators with evidence-based programs and techniques developed by her speech pathologists and occupational therapists.

PLD has gone from strength to strength. Diana says, "PLD's point of difference is that the programs have been designed by specialists (speech pathologists and occupational therapists) for generalists (educators)."

"I was thrilled that just 48 hours after the awards were announced there were hundreds of social media comments. My favourite was from a classroom teacher who said, 'It helps when you have a great product.'"

PLD's founder Diana Rigg with her 2019 Educational Publisher of the Year Award (Primary). Photo: Lindsay Edwards.