Engineering Industry Case study

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— **Sue Godwin**

GHD

Sharing technical knowledge legitimately

GHD is one of the world's leading engineering, architecture and environmental consulting companies, serving clients in the global markets of water, transportation, energy and resources, environment, property and buildings. The company has more than 10,000 employees, operates on five continents and came in at number 15 on Business Review Weekly's 2019 list of Top 500 Private Companies in Australia.

Challenge

As engineering companies readily understand, risk management and professional indemnity are important factors in good governance.

"We have information notices displayed around the workplace and next to the photocopiers to alert staff about copyright, but some staff are not aware of copyright requirements and are not aware that they could be doing anything wrong," says Sue Godwin, GHD's Knowledge Services Coordinator (Research, Library and Information Services).

Solution

GHD holds a commercial copyright licence from the Copyright Agency which "legitimises what our people are copying and sharing," advises Ms Godwin. "Staff members across the whole company often share articles from journals and conferences — a lot of technical knowledge."

"Another particularly useful component of the Copyright Agency licence is the ability to be able to internally exchange information from newspapers, such as tender notices."

Result

Being a company that is well versed in the copyright of its own plans, the licence is "a surety that we are being a good corporate citizen."

Ms Godwin says, "Our licence really assists with workflow too, because we are assured that we can simply proceed with sharing information freely, at the same time knowing we are doing the right thing by the creators of the articles or other material."