

# Preface

This book is a collection of papers on copyright law from wide and diverse perspectives.

It is designed to appeal beyond professionals in the copyright world to a wider interested audience. The papers have been selected to stimulate and inform.

The title of the collection itself illustrates the breadth of its survey. There are short and lengthy papers, some historical, many focusing on current issues, some with a policy and philosophical orientation and some with a more technical bent.

The collection contains perspectives which have not hitherto been the subject of much literature discussion. One paper discusses an Islamic perspective on intellectual property—that is, a perspective from one of the world’s most significant legal systems—which has had little English language coverage. Other papers reflect the growing international voice of developing countries in debates over the future of copyright and intellectual property.

The collection canvasses current issues of controversy over the law and practice of copyright, such as

- the liability of internet service providers for infringement of copyright by its customers,
- the increasing use of the resources of the state via the criminal law as a vehicle to enforce copyright, rather than the resources of copyright owners, and the social impact of that change,
- questions raised by the digital age and internet publication, and
- the rapid growth in the practice of open content licensing.

While some of the chapters in this collection relate specifically to the law in Australia, the issues raised in most chapters pose questions presently faced by the vast majority of countries of the world.

The chapters in this collection are authored by distinguished professionals including Dr Francis Gurry, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization, Justice Emmett of the New South Wales Court of Appeal, Prof Ian Hargreaves from Cardiff University and Prof Brian Fitzgerald from the Australian

Catholic University. Prof Hargreaves, who led a review of intellectual property for the UK Government, published as *Digital Opportunity: A Review of Intellectual Property and Growth* in 2011, reflects on the future directions of copyright law reform in the afterword. Prof Hargreaves mentions the trend towards open access, the need for the improved licensing of material and the insufficient regard in general to the interests of users of copyright material in a digital context.

The Editors would like to thank Benedict Atkinson and Kunle Ola for their foundation work in developing this collection. The Editors also wish to thank the ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation (CCI) for their funding support of a number of the papers in this collection and the collection as a whole.

We hope you will be stimulated, provoked and stirred into further thinking about the future of copyright by reading the papers in this book.

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