Implementing a sustainable legal framework for the Australian National Corpus

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Presenter:
Robyn Rebollo, BA, MLS, Griffith University
About AusNC:

The Australian National Corpus is an ongoing project to collate and provide access to a wide range of samples of Australian English and other languages used in Australia for the purposes of use in academic research. Building on earlier work in various disciplines, the Australian National Corpus brings existing and newly collected materials together in one place and provides tools to help researchers analyse this data.

http://www.ausnc.org.au

Legal & ethical challenges from AusNC project:

- Many of the collections included in the AusNC are retrospective.
- There are some subtle differences in the IP rights intrinsic to data sources (for example some collections include 3rd party content such as newspapers and magazines).
- There were ethical ethics to be addressed for some of the collections (clearance was not sought for public use of audio recordings in at least two collections).
Legal & ethical challenges from AusNC project:

- Creative Commons (CC) was not an acceptable option due to the content make-up of several collections. Why?
  - some collections pre-date CC or contain material already subject to another licensing regime
  - some material was supplied by 3rd parties in circumstances where it would be impractical to re-negotiate licences
  - uniform approach for all collections considered desirable

AusNC Approach:

- Establish AusNC legal group that includes collection custodians.
- Discuss the kinds of usage rights the AusNC will accept.
- Make sure the usage rights align with a standard license agreement for the AusNC.
- Solicit help from Griffith legal counsel on initial drafting of standard license agreement for Griffith specific collections (to use as a template).
- Solicit help from outside counsel for additional drafting work on behalf of AusNC, including development of framework documents.
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CORPUS

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Considerations for others embarking on similar projects:

- Open licensing frameworks are recommended, but not always achievable when dealing with collections that include:
  - Content from another source (e.g. input).
  - Content that may contain personal information and is limited for research purposes only.
- AusGoal maybe worth considering if your project has a collection of new data with limited usage or IP restrictions.
- Seek assistance from appropriate departments in your organisation that deal with legal and intellectual property issues. Get their feedback first.

Questions

Robyn Rebollo, Griffith University

Joe Siracusa, Siracusa Legal
(Legal Adviser)
The Australian National Corpus is proudly sponsored by:

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**Contacts:**

- **Project Sponsor:** Dr. Michael Haugh  
  **e:** m.haugh@griffith.edu.au

- **Project Sponsor:** Assoc. Prof. Steve Cassidy  
  **e:** Steve.Cassidy@mq.edu.au

- **Project Manager:** Ms. Robyn Rebollo  
  **e:** r.rebollo@griffith.edu.au

- **Legal Adviser:** Mr. Joe Siracusa,  
  Principal, Siracusa Legal (www.siracusalegal.com.au)  
  **e:** joe@siracusalegal.com.au