

Product Review

Keeping Within the Law (KWtL) – Online Resource

Having read several of Paul Pedley’s titles over the years regarding copyright and legal issues in relation to the information professional, I was rather interested in reviewing Facet Publishing’s new online subscription service, *Keeping Within the Law*. Paul Pedley is a leading commentator in the area of information and law and is Head of Research at the Economist Intelligence Unit. He is also heavily involved with many relevant organisations, including the Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance and the editorial board of *Business Information Review*. Having witnessed the many promotional pieces that have been evident since its launch back in May 2008, it was good to finally examine the package to see what it had to offer.

The following material is listed as being available to subscribers (with the database continually growing):

- Questions and answers
- Fully searchable database

- Links to useful resources: news; legislation; parliamentary questions; cases; fact sheets; presentations and in-depth articles
- Subscriber updates
- Monthly newsletters.

On accessing the site (www.kwtl.co.uk) for the first time, the user is greeted with a fairly accessible screen layout, dividing the homepage into latest news and items, links through to resources and four main subject areas: Copyright; Data Protection; Freedom of Information; and Other Legal Issues. Navigation around the homepage is easy, with a fairly helpful tags index to keywords within documents - for example ‘websites and intranets’ ‘fair dealing’ and ‘digital rights’. The greatest volume of content does lean towards copyright, although this by no means results in other areas lacking material. The quality of the information here (as is usually the case with Pedley) is very good, although a reasonable amount of

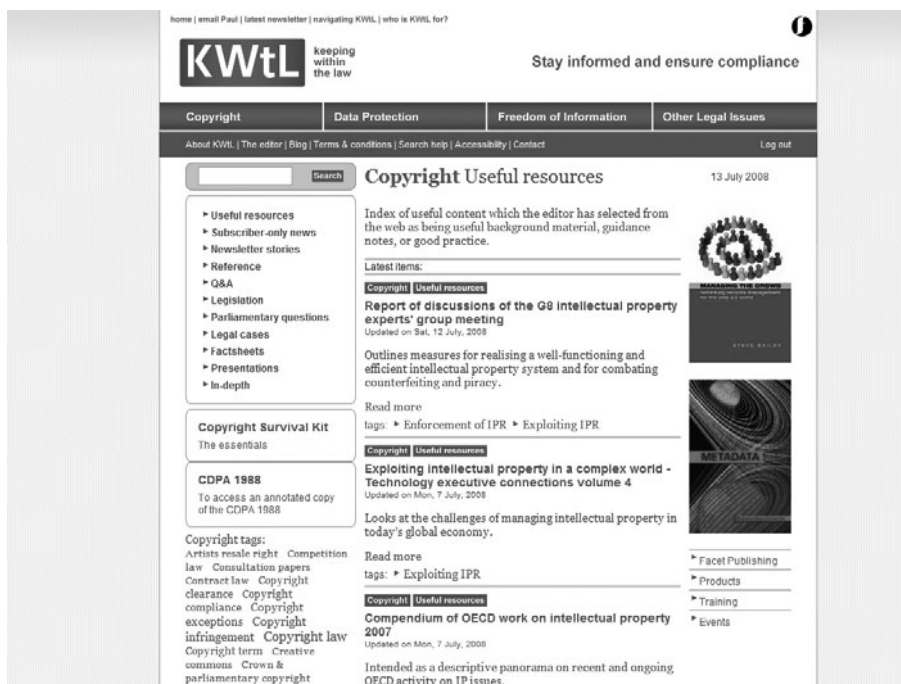


Figure 1: A screenshot from the website.

the content is linked to documents provided by external sources. An extremely useful option available is the ability to contact Pedley himself with any questions you have and these are then posted on the 'frequently asked questions' section. This allows users to gain specific information as regards their particular activities, an option which should undoubtedly be appealing.

Whilst navigation around the site is relatively simple, I initially struggled slightly with the search function. However, assistance is provided on the site and after a few minutes it is easily picked up. This area is relatively basic, with results listed only in terms of relevance and no option to search specific areas of the database.

The service does aim to cover 'legal issues for the information stakeholder community: information suppliers, professionals and providers', which I think is a fair statement. A slight concern would be the wealth of information that is available here, particularly if the busy information professional simply wants to dip in and out of the site to clarify an issue that they or their organisation have encountered. Whilst reading an item about a 'Victim of Fraud' service is certainly interesting, I am unsure of any

practical use in my role on a day to day basis. Others may argue this point.

Having said this, I found all of the necessary information I required to assist with the drafting of a new policy relating to this area and I would certainly benefit from permanent access to the website. The price (at the time of writing) for a single user licence is £225.00 plus VAT for non-commercial organisations and £326.00 plus VAT for commercial organisations. Multiple user licences are also available.

To conclude, the interactive nature of the website and its wealth of information do make it very appealing. I do not think the price is particularly high, especially when one examines the cost of several hardcopy titles in this area, which would be required to cover the wide-ranging detail. Also, the site benefits hugely from being updated regularly. Thus, 'Keeping Within the Law' should prove a useful accessory to information professionals.

Jon Beaumont

Library & Information Manager
Harvey Ingram LLP.

Legal Information Management, 8 (2008), pp. 303–304

© The British and Irish Association of Law Librarians Printed in the United Kingdom

Book Reviews

doi:10.1017/S1472669608000765

Hilyer, Lee Andrew. *Presentations for Librarians: a Complete Guide to Creating Effective, Learner-centred Presentations*. Oxford: Chandos Publishing (Oxford) Limited, 2008. ISBN 978-1-84334-303-5 (pbk); 978-1-84334-304-2 (hbk). £39.95. xix, 189 p.

The author's motivation for publishing this book stems not only from attending disappointing presentations, given by uninspiring speakers, who left their audience none the wiser, but is also driven by indicators from recent research which suggest that the way many people prepare and deliver their presentations may actually impede, rather than assist, learning. Consequently, the author offers a book which presents relevant learning theories alongside instructional design best practice, to assist the reader in constructing and delivering effective, learner-centred presentations. It is aimed at information professionals working in a wide variety of sectors.

It is the author's most recent learning experiences, as a student studying for a second Master's degree, which lie

behind his reasons for writing this book. He undoubtedly also leans on his experience gained at Texas Medical Centre Library, where he developed the curricula for both beginner and advanced presentation skills classes.

On the basis that librarians are generally often faced with trying to impart a great deal of information in a short space of time, the author suggests that the presenter must first understand how people learn. With this in mind, the opening chapter of part one of this book explores how humans store, process and retrieve information. Some complex concepts are helpfully illustrated by diagrams and flow charts. The next two chapters invite the reader to study two vignettes, which recall one good and one bad conference presentation, and in each to consider what the speaker expects the audience to learn, what the audience itself expects to learn, and what new knowledge, if any, the attendee gleans from the experience. The author interacts with the reader by posing questions as part of an analysis of what happened during each scenario, which serves to enhance the reader's own learning experience.

With reference to the theories explored in part one of this book, the remaining chapters included in part two