



## ACT

• **2/9 ACT Special Libraries section.** *Librarians libations at the Hyatt.* Come and relax with library colleagues. For details contact: Julie Philips, ph 02 6208 5112, j.philips@nma.gov.au

• **8/9 APSIG.** *An Indian dinner, with Royce Wiles, well-known library traveller in India.* The Blue Elephant, 29 Lonsdale Street, Braddon, 6:15 for 6:30pm, \$20 for 3-course banquet, BYO. *RSVP by 6/9 to:* Dorothea Polonyi, ph 02 6249 5652, Dorothea.Polonyi@anu.edu.au

• **15/9–8/12 ACT Branch Council meeting.** NLA, 4th Floor Conference Room, commencing at 5:30pm (unless otherwise announced). 15/9, 13/10, 17/11, 8/12. Contact branch secretary: Sally-Anne Leigh, ph 02 6201 5522, sal@isd.canberra.edu.au

• **16/11 APSIG lunchtime talk.** *Travellers' tales: tales from those who have been overseas recently and visited libraries in Indonesia, China and the Pacific.* NLA, 4th Floor Conference Room, 12:30–1:30pm, all welcome, bring your lunch. Enquiries: Marie Sexton, msexton@nla.gov.au

• **17/11 ACT Branch and FLIN.** *Seminar on digital libraries.* Planning still underway, speakers to include: Tony Barry, Dianne Costello and Roxanne Missingham, on topics such as digital copyright, consortia, access and purchasing. NLA, 4th Floor Conference Room. Contact: Roxanne Missingham, ph 02 6262 1604, rmissingham@nla.gov.au

## NSW

• **8/9–11/11 NSW CYSS section.** *Committee meeting — everybody welcome,* 5:30pm. 8/9 (Parramatta City Library); 22/10 (Management seminar); 11/11 (Burwood Library). For further information, please contact: Mylee Joseph, ph 02 9777 7900, fx 02 9413 2038.

• **9/9 NSW Library Technicians section.** *Special General meeting.* The Esplanade Hotel, Marine Terrace, Fremantle, 12–1:30pm. \*Further details to be advised at the National LT conference\*. For more information, please contact Stephen Coppins, ph 02 9715 8316, spcoppins@bigpond.com

• **14/9–14/12 NSW Branch Council meeting.** State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney, observers welcome. 1999 meeting dates: 14/9, 19/10 (6pm, McDonalds Room, Ground Floor); 16/11, 14/12 (6pm, Sumitomo Room, Level 11). *RSVP to:* Jo-anne Fuller or Heather Black, ph 02 9906 6000, jojo1@ozemail.com.au

**20–23/9 Cataloguing workshop.** UNSW, School of Information Systems, Technology and Management. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 3589, fx 02 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au

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## Copyright

# Locking the door after the horse... Copyright in cyberspace

Colette Ormonde, ALIA research officer

For the purposes of copyright, using online information is not like using print. You can pick up a magazine or book and read it a hundred times without breaching the *Copyright Act*, but in calling up words, images and sound on your computer screen you are, because of the nature of digital technology, making a copy before you print, export or even glance at the words on your screen. This is what makes the Digital Agenda amendments to the *Copyright Act* so important to librarians, scholars, researchers, authors, copyright holders and others. As former national librarian Warren Horton said in this year's Australian Library Week oration, some copyright owners are using the features of digital information to support arguments that all uses of copyright material, no matter how small or how private, should be licensed, without regard to the long-held rights of students, libraries and researchers.

In a recent symposium, *Scholarship, intellectual ownership and the law*, participants defended the merits of equitable access to information and economic reward for intellectual product, against wittily-painted scenarios of changing, but always subversive, digital technology. Authors, academics, lawyers, scientists, publishers and librarians attended the symposium, hosted by the National Academies Forum and the National Library of Australia and held at the National Library on 15–16 July.

The main themes of the conference involved the ownership and exploitation of the creative endeavour of academics and researchers and the competing interests of protection versus access, exploitation versus cultural integrity, international versus national obligations, and the tensions between public, private and corporate interests. The conference also highlighted the widening of intellectual property ownership to genetic material.

Digital information technology, with its ease of access, transfer and manipulation, is changing traditional relationships and shifting control from large publishing and distribution conglomerates to individuals. Writer Dale Spender spoke of the changes which the Australian Society of Authors see in the way in which 'content providers' will be able to insist on equitable methods and rates of payment up front, thus changing the relationship between author and publisher/book-seller. Mara Bun, from the Australian Consumers' Association, referred to the dramatic impact of MP3 on music — the ability to

download music for no cost and the avidity with which performers are supplying their audience in order to undercut the power wielded by the middle-men of the record industry.

Traditional copyright has presupposed a link between attachment between rights of ownership and physical objects, like books or CD-ROMs. This link dissolves when information moves and transmutes at the touch of a button. Mara Bun called for new models of compensation, pointing out, for example, that the longevity of copyright — fifty- and ninety-year periods — may no longer be useful in a market and in a medium tuned to speed and change. High stakes are involved. United States copyright exports in 1996 totalled \$60.15 billion — more than the value of cars or agriculture. From 1987 to 1996, copyright industries grew twice as fast as the United States economy.

It is important for librarians to understand the wider issues of copyright. As copyright owners seek to extend the range of their rights, traditional rights of library users are under attack. At this conference, the role of libraries received some scrutiny and criticism. The argument for stronger protection against library copying was outlined by script-writer Ian David, concerned that libraries would be a conduit for copying and transmission of digital information to bypass the rights of copyright owners. David warned that creators may be forced to become Luddites (not use digital technology to disseminate their work) in order to protect their product.

Annabelle Herd, executive officer of the Australian Digital Association, defended the role of libraries as acting responsibly to give users equitable access to information. She argued that the balancing of rights in traditional copyright law applied to information, however disseminated. Dr Kay Daniels of the Commonwealth Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts outlined proposed amendments to the Copyright Act regarding digital information. [Summaries of their papers will appear in next month's *inCite*.]

Issues of indigenous rights and the access to personal information were also discussed, as were the importance of co-operation and free sharing of knowledge in the public interest, for example, in world meteorology in a stimulating paper by Dr John Zillman, director of the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology. The challenge posed by biotechnol-

ogy was explored in several papers. Henrietta Fourmile, associate professor and senior research fellow with the Centre for Indigenous History and the Arts, University of Western Australia, gave two papers, one examining the importance of indigenous knowledge to the maintenance of bio-diversity and the international threats to this, the other outlining the appropriation of indigenous knowledge by commercial and academic interests. The other side of this picture was reflected in a paper on a university/industry project commercialising Queensland flora to produce new drugs, an account given by Dr Ron King of Griffith University, working with a multi-national company, Astra. Professor Malcolm Gillies, president of the National Academies Forum, in describing the changing nature of intellectual property mentioned the refusal of many Icelanders to participate in a national health database because of their concerns about privacy and the selling of their genetic information, an example echoing David's Luddite argument.

A number of academics at the confer-

ence, including Melbourne University philosopher Tony Coody, defended the public interest in access to information, free communication and open exchange of ideas. Using such arguments, ALIA, the Libraries Copyright Committee and the Australian Digital Alliance are continuing to lobby for the extension of traditional library copying exemptions to the *Copyright Amendment (Digital Agenda) Act*. However this conference underlined the situation that the online environment has opened up many opportunities for evading traditional intellectual property gateways. As one commentator said, young people using the internet have little interest in legal limitations when technologically they can export and manipulate data as they wish. Is copyright law locking the door after the information horse has bolted? Libraries must continue to promote responsible use of online information which acknowledges the rights of owners and users.

Summaries of the papers from this conference are available at the website of the National Academies Forum at <http://www.naf.org.au/iosymp.htm>. ■



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**29/9 & 6/10 Library of Congress subject headings.** UNSW, School of Information Systems, Technology and Management. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 3589, fx 02 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au

**7/10 Information design for the web.** UNSW, School of Information Systems, Technology and Management. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 3589, fx 02 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au

• **9/10 NSW Library Technicians section.** Library and information industry job application and interview skills workshop. OTEN — NSW TAFE, Building A, 51 Wentworth Street, Strathfield, 1pm–4pm. Cost: NSW LT section members free; other ALIA members \$10; students \$5; non-members \$20. For more information or to register contact Stephen Coppins by 1/10/99, ph 02 9715 8316, spcoppins@bigpond.com

• **13/10 NSW Library Technicians section.** *General meeting.* Paramatta Heritage Centre, Church Street (near Lennox Bridge), Parramatta, 5:30pm, refreshments provided. For further details, please contact Stephen Coppins, ph 02 9715 8316, spcoppins@bigpond.com

• **18/10 NSW Cataloguers' Section** Speaker: Tom Delsey Keynote speaker from the Cataloguing conference. Venue: TBA 6 for 6:30pm. Contact: cgrant@slnsw.gov.au

**21/10 Keeping up with internet developments.** UNSW, School of Information Systems, Technology and Management. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 3589, fx 02 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au

• **22/10 NSW Acquisitions section.** *One day seminar on basics of acquisitions.* State Library of NSW, Metcalfe Auditorium, 8:30–4pm. ALIA members \$85, ALIA student members \$60, non-members \$110. Contact: Linda Bishop, ph 02 9809 5884, linrose@one.net.au

• **26/10–24/11 NSW School Libraries section meeting.** Leichhardt Public School, Joint Council Rooms, Norton Street, Leichhardt (near Shearer's on Norton), 5:30–7:30pm, all members welcome. 1999 meeting dates: 26/10, 24/11. Contact the president, Ian McLean, Ian.McLean@det.nsw.edu.au or the secretary Mary Gibbs, mgibbs@shore.nsw.edu.au for more details.

**28/10 Updating your internet research skills.** UNSW, School of Information Systems, Technology and Management. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 3589, fx 02 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au

• **10/11 NSW Library Technicians section.** *1999 AGM, including a tour of the Australasian collection.* Society of Australian Genealogists, Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street, Sydney, 5:30pm, refreshments provided. Din-

## \$1000 up for grabs

Nominations close 30 September for the Peake Prize 1999

**T**he State Library of New South Wales has called for nominations for the \$1000 Peake Prize. The prize is awarded biennially and aims to encourage new librarians and archivists to share their ideas and observations on the challenges of information technology in the research environment.

The prize is named in honour of Dorothy Peake, former librarian for the University of Technology, Sydney and founding editor of *Library Automated Systems Information Exchange (LASIE)*, published by the State Library of New South Wales. The prize is awarded for

the most outstanding article on practical applications of information technology in libraries and related institutions.

The article must be an original piece written by a professional librarian or archivist who has completed a bachelor degree in library studies in the last five years at an Australian institution. The article must also be suitable for publication in *LASIE*.

The closing date for applications is 30 September 1999 and application forms are available from Public and Education Programs, State Library of New South Wales, phone 02 9273 1499. ■

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