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 conference, including Melbourne University philosopher Tony Coady, 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. ■

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.* Parramatta 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-