

FREE PUBLIC FORUM

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & LAW presents

GOOGLE Infinite Library, Copyright Pirate, or Monopolist?

Friday, 9 December 2005

12.00 noon – 2.00 pm (followed by light refreshments)

Innovations Theatre, Innovations Building #124, cnr Garran & Eggleston Roads, ANU

Please RSVP to: nissl@anu.edu.au

This event is free and members of the public are welcome to attend. Enquiries to: 6125 2906

In the past year, there has been much debate about Google and the implications of the search engine's activities for copyright law, privacy, and competition. In December 2004, Google announced that it had entered into agreements with four university libraries and the New York Public Library to "digitally scan books from their collections so that users worldwide can search them in Google." The search engine claimed that this would be an "expansion of the Google Print program, which assists publishers in making books and other offline information searchable online."

In September and October 2005, the Authors Guild and the Association of American Publishers filed lawsuits in the United States, alleging that the Google Library program had infringed copyright in literary works through its unauthorised scanning and copying of books.

In response, Google declared that it respected copyright: "The use we make of all the books we scan through the Library Project is fully consistent with both the fair use doctrine under U.S. copyright law and the principles underlying copyright law itself, which allow everything from parodies to excerpts in book reviews."

This Forum will explore the legal issues surrounding Google from the perspective of lawyers, librarians, authors, publishers, and consumers. Will the search engine become an infinite library? Is it the saviour of the public domain? Or is Google violating the copyright of authors and publishers? Does the search engine respect privacy? Or does it encourage surveillance? Does Google have the potential to become a monopolist? Or will the search engine provide much needed competition for Microsoft?

The Forum speakers and discussants include:

- **Mr Chris Creswell** Consultant, Copyright Law Branch, Information Law & Human Rights Division, Attorney-General's Department
- **Mr Michael Handler** Lecturer, ACIPA, Faculty of Law, The Australian National University
- **Ms Moyra McAllister** Copyright Officer, Australian Library & Information Association
- **Dr Matthew Rimmer** Senior Lecturer, ACIPA, Faculty of Law, The Australian National University
- **Ms Sarah Waladan** Executive Officer, Australian Digital Alliance, & Copyright Advisor, Australian Libraries Copyright Committee
- **Mr Roger Clarke** Visiting Professor, Faculty of Engineering & Information Technology, The Australian National University, and Xamax Consultancy