

legal arena is not widespread. Many of the external database suppliers however, are moving to optical technology. Optical disk could be used to store information such as:

- Corporate client records – not only pertinent information but also entire files, signed copies of documents, etc;
- The firm's accounting information, archived over several years. This information could be stored within the firm and would be easily accessible to quickly respond to any query;
- Other practice data, for example, client wills or trust documents;
- Closed firm files;
- Internal firm memoranda or legal databases.

The application of this technology is virtually limitless. It can also serve as a storage device on a local area network, making all this information instantly available to everyone in your firm at the touch of a button.

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## KIWINET

• *Anthony Wong*

On 30 April 1990 a demonstration of Kiwinet's legal databases was held at Law Society, Auckland.

Kiwinet is one of the largest repositories of legal information in New Zealand. It is administered by the National Library of New Zealand. For details contact the Kiwinet Manager, National Library of New Zealand 743 089 or freephone 008 736 561.

Details of the databases are listed below.

### KIWINET'S LEGAL DATABASES

#### Indexes to Case Law & General Literature

##### *Briefcase (Case)*

Briefcase is created by Law Library Management and is a consolidated index to judgments mentioned in The Capital Letter, Butterworths Current Law, New Zealand Recent Law and Consolidated Case Annotation. It includes catchwords or descriptors, an abstract, statutes discussed, identifies words which have been judicially defined and other cases cited, whether the case has been reported and the necessary details to identify the case.

*Legal index (Linx)*

Legal index covers Court of Appeal Judgments, High Court Judgments (mainly for the Auckland area), Times Law Reports, legal journals and texts. It includes catchwords or descriptors, an abstract, other cases cited, statutes discussed, and the details to identify the material.

**Full Text Databases***Court of Appeal Judgments (Appl)*

Court of Appeal Judgments contains the full text of judgments from 1982 onwards. The entire text of a judgment can be used to research legal concepts, references to statutes, other cases, phrases etc or to print out judgements previously identified as relevant from file numbers or case names.

*Legislation before the NZ Parliament (Bill)*

This database contains the entire text of Bills before the House. It can be used to search for forthcoming legislation on a topic eg fencing, or for new legislation impinging on an existing Act, or simply as a means of acquiring a copy of the Bill.

*Hansard (Hans)*

Hansard contains the entire text of Parliamentary debates from September 1987 onwards. It can be used to research the intentions of the law draftsmen from the debates at various stages of a bill going through the House, or as a means of checking when a Bill was introduced, and had its various readings, or to ascertain what Members of Parliament are saying about a particular issue.

**Background Research***Index New Zealand (Innz)*

Innz indexes over 200 of the most important New Zealand journals, magazines and newspapers.

*Newzindex (Newz)*

Newzindex concentrates on material of interest to the business community in newspapers and journals. It is useful for researching current events, particularly in the commercial area.

*Parliamentary questions (Ques)*

The Questions database contains the full text of both oral and written questions. It contains useful information about the activities of the Government.

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## Recent Developments in the Uruguay Round of International Trade Negotiations on Intellectual Property Rights

Negotiations in the Uruguay Round of international trade talks on intellectual property rights are scheduled to conclude at a Ministerial conference to be held in Brussels in early December, 1990.