Exercises

# Chapter 5: What counts as ‘originality’?

## Exercise 1: Evaluate what type of originality your research project contributes

Pat Cryer has suggested that we can understand originality in research through an analogy with a travel expedition: ‘the research student is the explorer and the expedition is the research programme’ (1996: 145). Cryer uses the expedition analogy to suggest different senses of ‘original research’:

Review each kind of originality below in terms of what you think your research might contribute and decide which kind is most likely to be applicable to your work:

* originality in tools, techniques and procedures
* originality in exploring the unknown
* originality in exploring the unanticipated
* originality in use of data
* originality in outcomes
* originality in byproducts. (Cryer 1996: 146–8)

You might return to this exercise at regular intervals to review any changes in how you view your research.