Policy recognises the importance of information, and new information technologies, in the development of a rich and rewarding cultural fabric. It reads:

> *'The Government will work with the States to form local access points to enable Australians to participate fully in open learning opportunities, government services, small-business support, electronic communications, community networks and other opportunities for personal development. In particular, the 1 400 public library service points throughout Australia provide a major opportunity for linking communities to networked services, such as those available through the Internet. The Government will work with the States to deliver an effective program of community access.'*

Our lobbying efforts continue. While the issues under current scrutiny have involved public libraries, there has been a broader emphasis placed on the importance of the role performed by library personnel in all sectors. We have endeavoured to ensure that federal politicians recognise the co-operative efforts that are underway between public, university and school libraries and the important role performed by government and private sector special libraries in providing a professional service in the delivery of on-line, timely and relevant information. ■

Response to draft competency standards

The number and quality of the responses to the Draft Competency Standards for inclusion in ALIA's submission to Arts Training Australia was most pleasing. A first analysis highlighted the following *(refer inCite 10, p14-15):*

- almost all of the 67 units attracted some comment;
- the three streams were seen to be appropriate by all but one group;
- the majority of responses wished to see a level beyond the current industry level 6, equating to Australian Standards Framework level 8, and several supported the inclusion of a level below industry level 1, equating to ASF level 1;
- some people criticised the document for a lack of future orientation and a focus on traditional library services;
- many people felt that some librarianship competencies should be included in the core units, with a general cataloguing-type unit or a version of unit 28 being suggested areas;
- the cataloguing and acquisition units attracted the most comments, with suggestions that they are required at both higher and lower levels than in the draft;
- the computing units and the units in levels 5 and 6 attracted least comment;
- the key competencies need to be listed to avoid repeating problem solving, communication, in the industry competencies;
- responses were split about the inclusion of training as a core unit;
- some concerns were expressed about the capacity of specialists, for example, cataloguers in large libraries, to meet the core requirements;
- some unevenness was seen to exist between the complexity and magnitude of units at the same level;
- evaluation was not seen to be covered adequately;
- some educators felt that it would be difficult to turn the competencies into curriculum documents.

Anne Hazell

Australian Library and Information Association

Honorary awards

Nominations are now being called for the following honorary awards of the Australian Library and Information Association

HCL ANDERSON AWARD

The General Council may confer the HCL Anderson Award on any person who is a professional member of the Association or who holds an overseas qualification in librarianship or archives, which is recognised as a professional qualification by a library association or archives association in the country concerned, and who has rendered outstanding service to librarianship or the library profession in Australia, or to ALIA, or to the theory or practice of librarianship.

REDMOND BARRY AWARD

The General Council may confer the Redmond Barry Award on any person who is not eligible to be a professional member of the Association and who is not employed in a library, who in the opinion of General Council, has rendered outstanding service to the promotion of a library or libraries; ALIA; the theory or practice of librarianship, or to an associated field such as bibliography.

ELLINOR ARCHER AWARD

The General Council may confer the Ellinor Archer Award on any person employed or who has been employed in libraries, who is not eligible for Associateship of ALIA, who has rendered outstanding service: to libraries, the promotion of a library, or libraries; the theory or practice of librarianship or to an associated field such as systems, conservation, management or bibliography.

Confidentiality

It is essential that nominees should NOT be aware that they are nominated for an award. Nominations are considered by the Honorary Awards Committee and Council in committee, and details are published only when the nominations are successful.

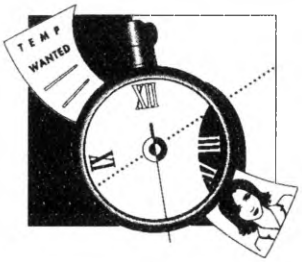
Divisions of ALIA are particularly asked not to note nominations in their agenda papers or minutes. Disclosure of such details can prejudice a nomination.

Nomination forms

Nomination forms and further information on each of the awards may be obtained from the National Office. Nominations for the HCL Anderson Award, the Redmond Barry Award and Ellinor Archer Award close on 1 February 1995.

YOU NEED
THE RIGHT PERSON
FAST

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN PINPOINT
THAT PERSON IN 24 HOURS.



When you call our Librarians you tap into our world-first Library and Information Recruitment Database. By Boolean searching for any of 299 library skills in 10 categories we pinpoint your best candidate – and if they say yes to the job, we will have their Skills Summary on your desk in 24 hours!

Library Locums

Call our Librarians and have your 24 hours start now.
Sydney 699-1855 Canberra 290-1047 Brisbane 350-4043

The Library Locums' Selection Process pinpoints the best person for you in 24 hours.