

Library competency standards

Anne Hazell provides a progress report from the Library Competency Standards Development Taskforce

The Library Competency Standards were endorsed by the National Training Board on 24 March and placed on the National Register of Competency Standards four weeks later. The development phase is now therefore completed and the implementation phase is beginning. Arts Training Australia plans to launch the Standards early in July, accompanied by a widespread promotion campaign which will highlight the availability and value of competency standards. The Standards will be available from: Arts Training Australia, PO Box 138, Kings Cross NSW 2011, phone (02) 356 4797, fax (02) 356 4736.

As is required of all industry competency standards, the Library Standards will be reviewed in two to three years' time with particular attention being paid to the extent to which they reflect client focus, the need if any for additional industry competency levels, adequacy of coverage of the knowledge component, the effect on library workplaces of changes related to the

virtual library, coverage of the work in special libraries involving broader aspects of information and the definition of information.

ALIA is developing a policy statement defining the Association's position in relation to competency standards, which emphasises the place of knowledge in competence. The draft statement will be considered by the Board of Education at its June meeting and forwarded to General Council in July. At the June meeting the Board will finalise plans for a series of national workshops on implementing the library standards. This workshop will be available for delivery in a range of formats as appropriate for local needs.

Perhaps the most exciting evidence of the implementation phase thus far is the progress made by the national Library and Information Studies Curriculum Project Group in developing curriculum based on the Standards at Australian Skills Framework levels 1-5, that is to associate diploma level. With the overall

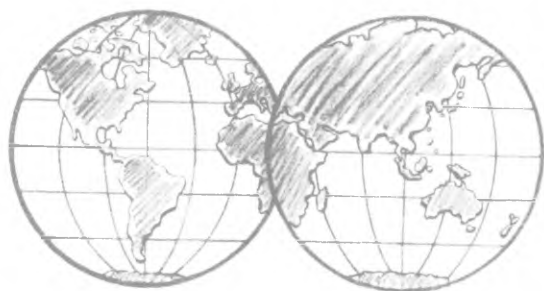
framework completed, work has begun on the writing of the library modules which will be supplemented by national modules from other disciplines such as communication, computing and management. ■

DASL update

The editor of the *Directory of special libraries in Australia*, Jo-anne Fuller, reports that she is disappearing under a mountain of returned forms for inclusion in the 9th edition, which will be launched at the Specials, Health and Law Librarians Conference later this year.

Canberra contributors please note that ACT entries will be collected separately, as part of the update of the *Canberra libraries guide*.

Thanks to all the people who have provided leads to libraries not included in the 8th edition. Lastly, if you haven't already returned your entry form please do, it's not too late provided you pop it in the post quickly. ■



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