▶ prehensive document with extensive legal interpretations of the NPPs. We acknowledge that there is need for a comprehensive interpretation of the NPPs and recommend that there also is a need for a less complex document that can be easily accessed and understood by those responsible for privacy policy. While ALIA is below the operating baseline for the NPPs to apply, National Office will be recommending to the Board that the Association adopt the Principles in order to meet international best practice standards, and foster confidence in the use of new information and communication technologies.

Trade negotiations and international treaties are increasingly becoming of interest and relevance to our sector. More on these in my next Directline.

Election lobbying framework
The Board agreed that our main focus will be on public access to information, particularly the internet and the role of the sector in 'Connecting Australians' and 'Connecting communities' and incorporating major documents such as *An agenda for the knowledge nation*; *School innovation: pathway to the knowledge society*; and *Backing Australia's ability*. The lobbying program will be discussed at the August Board meeting. ■

IFLA approves licencing principles

The worldwide marketplace for all types of electronic information resources is developing rapidly as publishers and vendors creating electronic information seek to attract libraries of all types as their customers. Today, libraries continue in their role as mediators between users and producers of information and cultural expression. This role persists even more energetically, it appears, for electronic information than for print.

The use of electronic information is usually defined and described by contractual agreements, otherwise known as licences. These are marketplace arrangements in which a willing information provider and a willing purchaser of information access come together to make arrangements, deal by deal, resource by resource.

IFLA views the licencing arena positively, although key issues remain to be resolved. In particular, licencing is increasingly responsive to the complex business arrangements between information providers and library consortia of different types and sizes. IFLA encourages and supports the evolution of all types of libraries negotiating as consortia.

Recently IFLA's executive and professional boards approved a set of licencing principles which should prevail in the contractual relationship and written contracts between libraries and information providers. Aspects that have been touched upon by these principles include: the law, access, usage and users, and pricing.

Marianne Scott, chair of the IFLA Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM) which prepared the text of the principles, commented: 'Licencing is increasing in importance as a means of gaining access to commercially available digital information. I am pleased that the library community world-wide now has a set of principles to provide support and guidance in negotiating these licences.'

The text of the IFLA licencing principles is available on IFLANET at http://www.ifla.org/V/ebpb/copy.htm. ■