Our standards: comment now!

ALIA and the ALIA Public Libraries Advisory Committee are committed to ensuring that the evidence-base for Standards and Guidelines for Australian Public Libraries, first published in April 2011, is kept as up-to-date as possible. With 2009-10 data now released by National and State Libraries Australasia, the second edition is in preparation.

If you have comments on the 12 standards and 20 guidelines of the first edition, on the use of the average of the three best-performing states/territories as the basis for calculating each measure, or on your experience in applying the standards and guidelines, now is exactly the time to make them known.

Please send your feedback to info@librariesalive. com.au or contact Sherrey Quinn or lan McCallum directly on 02 6257 9177. The deadline for responses has been extended until 30 March 2012.



ALIA Awards review complete

To ensure ongoing sustainability, quality, industry recognition, and, most importantly, a diversity of nominations for the ALIA Premier, Excellence, Research, and Fellowship Awards, the ALIA Board of Directors authorised a comprehensive review of all of our offerings in 2011.

Providing our members with opportunities to achieve valued industry recognition of their achievements and professional contributions, and facilitate individual contributions to the development of the profession was paramount in the objectives of the Awards Review. Because of this ALIA did not call for nominations for these awards in 2011 while the review was undertaken.

After consultation with the Membership and Awards Sub-Committee, this review and its recommendations have now been accepted by the ALIA Board of Directors and applications are invited for the following awards in 2012:

- HCL Anderson
- Redmond Barry
- Metcalfe Award
- Fellowship
- Research Grant (previously 'Study Grant' award)
- Library Technician Research Award
- Twila Ann Janssen Herr Research Award for Disability Services
- Aurora Scholarship

Silver pins, group, student, and honorary member awards are also open in 2012. Details of each award and application information can be found on the website at www.alia.org.au/awards.

The following awards have now been retired: Ray Choate Scholarship, YBP/Lindsay & Croft Research Award for Collection Services, ATSILIRN Bursary, Letter of Recognition, Excellence Award, Ellinor Archer Pioneer Award.

MAY INCITE FEATURE TOPIC: It's in our DNA...

What is? What lies at the heart of our profession? What makes us who we are and what goes into making a library or information service the real deal? Is it the physical stuff or the ideals of the staff?

And what is the secret, essential quality that has helped libraries and the people in them endure through centuries of change?

It's time to tell us what you think. Check the guidelines for contributions at www.alia.org.au/publishing/incite/guidelines.html and email your stories and images to incite@alia.org.au . Please note all images must be high resolution (at least 300dpi) and sent separately as jpg files. Images may be reproduced in print and online.

Deadline for stories is April 1, 2012.