

Guidance vs censorship

Britannica Internet Guide

Much has been said about blocking children's access to 'objectionable' internet sites on public access terminals in public libraries and in schools. All filtering software has its limitations, often leading to the exclusion of good quality educational and medical sites. Some organisations are helping to address this by providing lists of good sites for children. The American Library Association has an excellent kids resources page (as mentioned in the articles by Craig Anderson, p12, and Val Moon, p13). Another noteworthy site is the Britannica Internet Guide, maintained by Encyclopædia Britannica Inc.

The Britannica Internet Guide has been designed to steer users past the questionable information on the internet and straight to the most authoritative sources. The site can be found at <http://www.ebig.com>.

The sites linked to the Guide are chosen by highly-skilled subject editors, not machines trawling for particular words or phrases. The editors choose the sites for the quality and usefulness of their infor-

mation. The service's selection process, along with the facility to browse through site outlines and descriptions, produces rich and reliable search results. Tim Pethick, vice president, international language products for Encyclopædia Britannica Inc says that the Guide 'combines the best of two worlds: advanced electronic searching and the kind of intelligent selection and organisation for which Encyclopædia Britannica has long been famous.'

Britannica's editors select sites on the basis of depth and quality, the credentials and reputation of a site's author, elegance of design, ease of navigation, effective use of multimedia, and frequency of revision. Concise descriptions accompany the majority of the service's entries, these descriptions help users decide which sites are relevant to their interests.

Sites are given a star rating — noteworthy, recommended, exceptional and best of the web — which can be useful, especially when searching for sites on health-related matters like cancer, where the best sites are clearly identified, saving

time and energy when looking for information.

There have been concerns raised about internet sites encouraging teen suicide. A search for 'suicide' on the Britannica Internet Guide found sites which discuss the warning signs of an impending suicide attempt, the risk factors for suicide, suicide prevention, and what to do if a friend or relative is suicidal — no sites recommending suicide as an option.

Joan Julian, vice president, on-line services for Encyclopædia Britannica said that the move into internet navigation is a natural one for Britannica, which has been organising and indexing information for 229 years. Ms Julian said the Guide will be continually enhanced, sites will be added and functional capabilities improved over the coming months.

Special offer from Britannica

See Encyclopædia Britannica's advertisement on p2 for a special offer on *Britannica CD 98* Multi Media Edition for *inCite* readers. An opportunity not to be missed. ■



Australian
Library and
Information
Association

Election of ALIA vice-president 1999

Call for nominations

Nominations are called for the position of vice-president 1999. Nominees must be financial members of the Association at the time of nomination.

Candidates and nominators should read the relevant regulations carefully. Please note that nominations must be in writing, be signed by 2 financial members of the Association, include the consent in writing of the nominee and be accompanied by a 100-word current *curriculum vitae* (giving full details of academic and professional qualifications) and a 100-word statement of professional concerns. The *curriculum vitae* should be arranged under headings of Present Position, Previous Positions and Professional Activities.

A colour portrait photograph must be included.

Nominations close at 5pm on **1 August 1998** and should be sent to the executive director, ALIA, PO Box E441, Kingston 2604, e-mail: enquiry@alia.org.au

Further details are available from the ALIA executive director, or from <http://www.alia.org.au/nominations/vice.president.html>



Australian
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ALIA Board of Education

Call for nominations of 3 members

Nominations are called for 3 positions. Nominees must be financial members of the Association at the time of nomination, however they need not be professional members.

There are ten members of the Board of Education, seven elected by members of the Association and three by General Council. At least seven members of the Board must be professional members, the president of the Association is ex officio and the executive director is a non-voting executive member.

There shall be a minimum of 3 practitioners (persons working in the field of libraries or information services) and 3 educators on the Board (persons teaching library or information science). Terms of office of 3 members of the Board end on 31 December 1998. 2 members are to be elected by members of the Association and 1 member by General Council to hold office from 1 January 1999 to 31 December 2001.

Nominations must be in writing, be signed by 2 financial members of the Association, include the consent in writing of the nominee and be accompanied by a 100-word current *curriculum vitae* (giving full details of academic and professional qualifications) and a 100-word statement of professional concerns. The *curriculum vitae* should be arranged under headings of Present Position, Previous Positions and Professional Activities.

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