

The @ccessability website

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In May, VICNET (State Library of Victoria) in co-operation with the Telecommunications Needs Research Group (TNRG), in the School of Information Management and Systems, Monash University, began to develop the @ccessability website and database for the National Office of the Information Economy (NOIE). NOIE wanted a website which would support the applicants to the federal government's @ccessability fund. The fund will provide three million dollars over two years for innovative projects which will improve access to online services for people with disabilities. Another purpose is to provide a resource for individuals and organisations interested in online accessibility issues related to people with disabilities. As far as we know, it is unique and innovative in that it is an 'active' online database, as distinct from the other 'passive' Australian and overseas websites.

The website/database was launched on 15 June 1998 by the Federal Minister for Communications and the Arts, Senator Richard Alston, at the State Library of Victoria.

Key features of the website:

- The website/database complies with HTML 3.2 and HTML 4 standards for accessible format on the World Wide Web — the site is fully accessible and navigable by vision impaired users of screen readers, or those who use keystrokes and other devices to navigate the Web.
- The primary focus for the website/database is to provide information on Australian research, products, programs, services, and government initiatives and policies relevant to information and communication technology access for people with various disabilities.
- Sight, motor, intellectual, and hearing disabilities are included. While the emphasis is on Australian items, there is also ample coverage of international material.
- Access to items on the database is by topic and/or keyword. A small number of topics have been chosen: user needs, research, programs, products and services, standards and guidelines, case

studies, policies and legislation, training and 'other'.

- Topic and keyword search options allow active use of the database. It is thus possible to find a wide variety of information on accessibility issues. Once the material is found, further links are also available to related sites and data.
- Not only does the database maintain up-to-date information on research, products and services, it provides links to key individuals and organisations worldwide. These links cover diverse areas such as robotics, assistive and adaptive technologies, web page design and training/education.

The TNRG will continue to update and expand the website/database in co-operation with Vicnet. We encourage users to provide us with information regarding new research, 'best practice' projects, products and services, to add to the database. Feedback on current entries would also be appreciated. The website can be found at <http://accessability.noie.gov.au>. The TNRG's e-mail address is: tnrng@sims.monash.edu.au. ■



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Call for nominations

Nominations are called for Northern Territory, Queensland, Tasmania and Victorian General Councillors. Nominees must be financial members of the Association at the time of nomination, however they need not be professional members.

ALIA General Council consists of the president, the vice-president, the chair of the ALIA Board of Education, the immediate past president of the Association and one member elected by each branch. In 1999 the president will be Craig Anderson and John Shipp will be immediate past president.

The executive committee consists of the president, the vice-president, the immediate past president, two members of ALIA General Council, and the chair of the ALIA Board of Education.

Terms of office for the Northern Territory, Queensland, Tasmania and Victorian General Councillors end on 31 December 1998. New General Councillors are to be elected by the members of the Association to hold office from 1 January 1999 to 31 December 2000.

Nominations must be in writing, be signed by 2 financial members of the Association and include the consent in writing of the nominee.

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

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

Also see the divisional nomination form, inserted in the July issue of inCite.

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