



LINKAGE— INFRASTRUCTURE EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Funding rules

for funding commencing in

2004

Australian Research Council
Linkage—Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities
Funding rules for applicants for funding commencing in 2004

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Acronyms

The following acronyms are used throughout these Funding Rules.

ARC	Australian Research Council
EAC	Expert Advisory Committee
GAMS	Grant Application Management System
GST	Goods and Services Tax
LIEF	Linkage-Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities Program
NCGP	National Competitive Grants Program
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
RIEF	Research Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities Scheme

Australian Research Council

Linkage-Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities

Funding rules for applicants for funding commencing in 2004

1 Overview

The Australian Research Council's infrastructure fund has existed continuously for more than ten years. The ARC currently funds infrastructure through the *Linkage-Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities (LIEF)* Program, which is part of the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP). LIEF commenced in 2001, replacing the Research Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities (RIEF) Scheme.

LIEF provides funding to institutions for research infrastructure that will be used to support high quality research projects. The Program is managed on an annual basis and funding is normally provided for one year only. Applications for LIEF are submitted through the ARC's Grant Administration and Management System (GAMS).

2 Objectives

The objectives of the LIEF Program are to:

- encourage institutions to develop collaborative arrangements among themselves, across the higher education sector and with organisations outside the sector, in order to develop research infrastructure;
- support large-scale cooperative initiatives involving two or more institutions, thereby allowing expensive facilities to be shared;
- enhance support for areas of research strength; and
- ensure that researchers in fields of recognised research potential have access to the support necessary for development.

3 Definition of research infrastructure

Research infrastructure consists of the institutional resources essential for mounting high-quality research projects in a particular field, including associated indirect costs. It excludes any direct project costs that can be covered from other sources of funding.

4 Eligibility

4.1 Eligibility of the institution

Appendix 1 lists the higher education institutions eligible to administer LIEF funding. Researchers will apply for LIEF funding through the administering institution. In general, applications should involve two or more eligible higher education institutions.

Single university applications

A single university application is defined as an application whose list of participants includes only one eligible higher education institution, as outlined in Appendix 1.

In some circumstances applications from single universities for assistance to purchase a large item of equipment or major facility on a sole-use basis may be considered under the LIEF Program. In such cases, the application must demonstrate clearly that:

- the project does not duplicate equipment or a similar facility at another institution where collaborative arrangements would be practicable; and
- collaborative use of the new equipment by other higher education institutions is not feasible.

Applications involving other organisations

Applications involving organisations that are not higher education institutions, such as government research organisations and businesses, are also encouraged, provided that:

- at least one eligible higher education institution is involved in the application; and
- any funds allocated for equipment and/or facilities are used to build up infrastructure within the higher education sector.

If only one higher education institution is involved in an application, the application must be justified as a single university application. This applies both to applications submitted by only one university and no collaborating organisations, and applications that involve a number of industry or government partners but only one university partner.

Peak bodies representing the higher education community may act as catalysts in developing cooperative arrangements. In such cases, the peak body may apply on behalf of, and with the full written agreement of, the higher education institutions. Such applications must identify the mechanism for accountability and distribution of the funding between the eligible higher education institutions.

4.2 Eligibility of the project

4.2.1 Key criteria

Collaboration

Projects that demonstrate genuine collaboration between two or more eligible institutions are preferred. Projects must relate to high-quality research activity and must be broadly in line with the research directions of the institution(s) involved.

Collaboration will typically involve the shared use of facilities on different projects and/or collaborative projects. Where the equipment required will be located in more than one institution, the application must demonstrate clearly that:

- the facility is genuinely integrated and collaborative;
- the items of equipment are complementary in nature; and
- overall research outcomes will be enhanced.

Chief Investigators

A Chief Investigator should be an established researcher who will be primarily involved in the use of the equipment or facility. Normally, there will be at least one Chief Investigator from each of the collaborating institutions. Individual researchers must not be named as Chief

Investigators on more than two LIEF applications in a year. Contravention of this limit may result in the exclusion of all LIEF applications involving that researcher as a Chief Investigator.

Chief Investigators must have fulfilled all obligations from previous ARC grants (including final and end of year reports) before LIEF funding can be awarded.

Expenditure on equipment and facilities

The amount of funding sought from the ARC must exceed \$100,000 (net of GST). Funding may be sought only for expenditure related to research infrastructure and equipment and facilities such as:

- equipment purchase and installation;
- facilities such as computing centres, centrifugation facilities, animal houses, herbaria, experimental farms but not including capital works (see Section 5.4);
- salaries if these are directly associated with creating and installing the facility;
- consortium membership costs, travel to the facility, and secretariat costs in the case of Australia's participation in significant international-scale projects; and
- library and information infrastructure (non-capital aspects only to support specific research projects). Applicants should refer to the advice at **Appendix 2** of these Funding Rules.

4.2.2 Integrated facilities

LIEF supports major facilities and equipment. Minor items of equipment are the responsibility of institutions. However, there may be special circumstances in which a case can be made for an integrated facility consisting of a number of small items.

Such applications will be considered only where a convincing case can be made that an integrated facility is necessary to support research activities.

4.2.3 Ownership and location of equipment and facilities

Ownership of shared facilities and equipment provided under LIEF is to be vested in the lead higher education institution identified on the application, listed in its assets register and located on campus. Collaborating institutions must reach agreement on time-sharing and access to equipment or facilities before applying for funding. Details of applicants' time-sharing and access arrangements must be included in their LIEF application.

It is recognised that it may be desirable, in very special circumstances, to fund and support the location of equipment or major national facilities outside a university campus, when access is provided to several institutions to better utilise research potential. In these circumstances, the terms of access must be guaranteed and agreed to by the parties in a contract prior to application. The costs of managing the equipment or facility should then be proportionally distributed across the users of the facility and agreed to prior to application. In such cases, ownership of the equipment or facility is vested with the institution that receives the LIEF funding. A copy of the signed agreement specifying location, access and sharing of recurrent costs must be attached to the application.

4.2.4 Cash contribution by institutions

The cost of acquiring equipment or facilities must be itemised on the application form as cash and in-kind contributions by participating institutions. The LIEF Program will fund up to a maximum of 75 per cent of the direct cost of purchasing the equipment or creating the facility (net of GST).

Salaries of support or academic staff and the cost of buildings or other infrastructure may not be counted as cash contributions towards the purchase of a new item of equipment or facility. Such items may be included only as in-kind contributions. Supplier discounts on infrastructure items must be included in the application but may not be identified as cash or in-kind contributions.

The Minister may approve a lesser amount of funding than that sought by an applicant. In such cases, each participating institution is nonetheless required to contribute pro-rata to the funded items at the rate identified in the funding application, irrespective of where those items are to be located. Institutions are required to submit at a minimum the pro-rata sum required, but may maintain the original level of commitment offered.

5 Funding

5.1 General funding issues

The minimum funding available for a grant under LIEF is \$100,000. A total budget of approximately \$25 million is available for distribution to LIEF projects in 2004. Additional allocations of expenditure cannot be accommodated once the Minister has approved the funding recommendations, as there are no additional funds available.

Funding is normally for one year only and is not recurrent, except where international agreements and national facilities are involved. All applicants must apply for funding each year. Where the ARC has accepted a case for continuing funding, the applicant will be required to submit an application each year until review.

International agreements

Where international agreements are involved, long-term funding will be available only if there are significant benefits to Australia by way of multi-year access to a major facility not otherwise available to Australians. Under such circumstances, the maximum funding period sought must be identified in the text of the initial application. If funding is required for more than five years, a review of the project will be conducted early in the fourth year, before any application for further funding is considered.

National facilities

Where national facilities are involved, the maximum funding period sought must be identified in the text of the initial application for funding and, if funding is sought for more than three years, a review of the project will be conducted early in the third year and before any application for further funding is considered. All bids for funding projects lasting more than one year must include a strategy for achieving sustainability following the period of LIEF funding.

5.2 Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Government-related entities do not pay GST on the funding transaction with the ARC. However, non government-related entities which are liable to pay GST on the transaction with the ARC will receive base funding plus GST.

If the organisation is able to claim input tax credits for the GST component in the cost of goods and services purchased in the course of carrying out the Project, then the GST component of these costs should not be included in the Project cost. The ARC will make GST adjustments to payments depending on whether the funding has been provided to a government-related or non-government-related entity. Applicants are therefore required to provide their budgets exclusive of GST.

5.3 Areas of investigation not supported

Research in the fields of clinical medicine and dentistry is not supported. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has responsibility for funding research in those fields.

5.4 Budget items not supported

The following items are **not** regarded as elements of research infrastructure, for the purposes of LIEF, and are not eligible for support:

- capital works (that is, the construction of buildings), because institutions receive operating grant funding for capital works;
- rental of accommodation;
- operational costs, including salaries of staff engaged in teaching and research, and in research only (including the cost of ‘buying time’ to free such staff to do more research) except, at the ARC’s discretion, where subscriptions for major international facilities cover such costs;
- salaries of staff supporting research at the institutional level (for example, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Research Grants Officer);
- stipends of postgraduate research students;
- travel costs directly associated with individual projects (with the exception of travel costs to allow participation in international consortia); and
- small pieces of equipment that should be funded by institutions (such as personal computers).

Applications that seek non-capital works aspects of library or information infrastructure may include salaries and minor pieces of equipment to build an integrated facility if the entire project is a cohesive attempt to provide infrastructure support to research. Please refer to **Appendix 2** for further details.

Application process

6.1 Applications

The application must contain all the information necessary for assessment of the project without the need for further written or oral explanation, or reference to additional documentation (including the World Wide Web), unless requested by the LIEF Advisory Committee. All details in the application, particularly concerning any successful grants, must be current.

For successful applications, the ARC may publish details contained in the full application, including applicants' names and institutions, application title, summary of proposal and research classifications.

Applicants should note that applications are considered by a committee that may include people who are **not specialists** in the field of the application. Accordingly, the project and its expected outcomes should be described in a way that can be understood by all committee members, including specialists and non-specialists.

6.1.1 *Submission of applications*

Applications under LIEF consist of two parts:

- 1 Application form. Parts A, B, C, D and E of the application form are completed in GAMS and provided to the ARC in both electronic and paper copies.
- 2 Additional text (Part F of application form). Part F includes supporting documentation and applicants' curricula vitae. Part F is provided to the ARC as a paper copy behind the associated application form.

6.1.2 *Application format*

All documents must be written in English and must comply strictly with the ARC's format and submission requirements.

All pages must be in black type, use a single column and **12 point font size** on white A4 paper, printed on one side only and unbound, with at least 2 cm margins on each side. As applications are scanned electronically, applicants must use a highly legible font type, such as Arial, Courier, Palatino, Times New Roman and Helvetica. Variants such as mathematical typesetting languages may also be used. References may be reproduced in 10-point font size. Colour graphs or colour photographs may be included but will be reproduced in black and white.

The pages of the additional text and supporting documentation must be numbered consecutively starting from page one of the additional text. Pages in excess of the number stipulated for each part below will be removed from the application before it is assessed.

6.1.3 *Application form and instructions to applicants*

Applicants must complete the application form produced by the ARC's web-based GAMS, available at www.arc.gov.au.

The application form is organised into six parts:

- Part A Administrative summary
- Part B Personnel
- Part C Cost and usage
- Part D Research support
- Part E Collaborating organisation details
- Part F Project and participant information

Applicants should note that a separate document, *Linkage—Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities Instructions to Applicants for Funding Commencing in 2004*, is available from www.arc.gov.au to assist in preparing applications.

6.1.3.1 Additional text

The additional text is to be no longer than **ten** pages. It should, within the required format, address the selection criteria listed in Section 7.1 of these Funding Rules **and** include the following details:

- a description of the research activities to be supported, stating how the research will be enhanced and why it is important. Comments must be related to the research priorities of the institution/s involved;
- the need and level of demand for the proposed equipment in Australia and the availability of comparable infrastructure elsewhere in the country;
- a description of the collaborative arrangements proposed, including the involvement of each institution. A single university applicant must justify why collaborative arrangements are not feasible or appropriate;
- a detailed budget justification that states the amount required for each item and the priority afforded each item (A, B or C). Note that each budget item and its priority must be justified;
- funding from sources other than the applicant institutions;
- details of staff, students and resources involved in the research activities; and
- the arrangements proposed for the purchase or construction of the equipment, its location, installation, day-to-day management and operation, maintenance, access by users to the facility, and the sharing of time and resources to maximise its use.

Applicants for library or information infrastructure must also address the issues identified in **Appendix 2** of these Funding Rules. Note that applicants must list the specific research projects that will use the resource created by this library or information infrastructure proposal.

6.1.3.2 Supporting documentation and curricula vitae

All the documents listed below are mandatory except for the agreement on access. These documents are **not** included in the quota of pages for the additional text. Applicants must include:

- curriculum vitae (CV) for each Chief Investigator, each no more than **one page** in length (including publication details). CVs must include the following details:
 - name;
 - qualifications and current appointment;
 - relevant employment history;
 - a list of the ten most significant relevant publications for the last five years and the total number of peer-reviewed research publications over the last five years; and
 - brief details of all competitive grant funding for the last five years
 - CVs longer than one page will be removed from the application before assessment.
- summary of quotes for items to be purchased, one page in length, to be included in the application after the additional text and CVs
 - quotes must include all discounts to be provided by suppliers;
 - quotes for items in foreign currency must include the exchange rate at the time of applying;
- if equipment is to be located outside an eligible higher education institution (as listed at **Appendix 1**), a copy of an agreement on access, use and maintenance between collaborators must be attached.

6.2 Number of copies

An original and **one identical** copy only are required. The application must be clipped with NAL-clips, not stapled, and submitted in the following order:

- 1 application form;
- 2 additional text; and
- 3 supporting documentation and curricula vitae.

6.3 Closing date for applications

Paper originals of LIEF applications must be received by the ARC, and the application form completed using GAMS must be submitted, by close of business (AEST) **2 May 2003**. Applications may be withdrawn but may not be changed after submission. Additions, deletions and modifications will not be accepted after submission. Applications received after close of business (AEST) **2 May 2003** will not be considered for funding.

6.4 How to submit applications

Applicants should submit their applications through the Research Office of the administering institution by the institution's closing date. University Research Offices have access to GAMS and will allocate GAMS UserIDs and passwords to enable applicants at their

university to access the system and create application forms. If an applicant has previously been allocated access to GAMS, her/his UserID and password should still be current.

University Research Offices should submit the application form in GAMS and forward the full paper application. Applicants who require an alternative means to submitting the form online should contact their University's Research Office.

Research Offices should send applications

by **mail**, to

Assistant Director - LIEF
Australian Research Council
GPO Box 2702
CANBERRA ACT 2601

by **courier**, to

Assistant Director - LIEF
Australian Research Council
Geoscience Australia Building
cnr Jerrabomberra Ave and Hindmarsh Drive
SYMONSTON ACT 2609

Applicants should note that a separate document, *Linkage-Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) Instructions to Applicants for Funding Commencing in 2004*, will be available on the ARC's website www.arc.gov.au to assist in preparing applications.

7 Selection and approval process

7.1 Selection criteria

Assessment will be based on the following criteria:

1 Need and level of demand for the proposed equipment or facilities in Australia.

The application should indicate the relevance of the proposed infrastructure to National Research Priorities and national needs, and the availability of comparable infrastructure elsewhere in Australia.

2 Excellence of the researchers and research activity to be supported.

Evidence must be presented to show that the proposed research and the Chief Investigators' track records are of high quality, including details of the research proposed, complemented in the attached curricula vitae of the principal proponents by details of recent relevant publications and competitive grants. This evaluation will take into account the opportunities that have been made available to the researchers to date.

3 Effectiveness of the cooperative arrangements between institutions, including access and resource sharing.

The application should detail the nature and degree of cooperation involved between the collaborating institutions. Where possible (and relevant), applications should also detail past and present cooperation and collaboration between the institutions concerned. Where the application seeks an extension of existing equipment facilities and/or additional equipment for a facility previously funded under LIEF or the Research Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities (RIEF) Scheme, then the extent of the current usage should be set out.

4 The commitment of each collaborating institution.

The application must provide clear evidence of the extent of financial and other support from the collaborating institutions and partners, and must be consistent with the institutions' research management plans.

7.2 Selection procedure

Assessment of applications is undertaken by an Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from the ARC's Expert Advisory Committees (EACs). The Advisory Committee:

- ranks each application relative to the others on the basis of the application;
- assesses and recommends budgets; and
- prepares funding recommendations that are submitted to the ARC Board and then to the Minister for approval.

The ARC has procedures for managing any institutional and personal conflicts of interest experienced by Committee members, and for enabling members to withdraw from considering particular applications.

7.3 Exclusion

Exclusion of ineligible applications by the ARC or by the LIEF Advisory Committee may take place at any time during the selection process. Applications may be excluded for contravening the Funding Rules in any way, for instance by:

- failing to submit the application through the appropriate Research Office for certification;
- not meeting the eligibility criteria; or
- providing incomplete or misleading information.

7.4 Offer of financial assistance

Following the Minister's approval of successful applications, the ARC will inform the successful administering institution in a letter of offer that will indicate the funding to be provided and will include the Funding Agreement. Collaborating institutions will be advised of the details of relevant funding offers. The Minister's decision is final.

7.5 Acceptance of Funding Agreement

Applicants should familiarise themselves with the draft LIEF Funding Agreement, which will be available at www.arc.gov.au.

Applicants who are offered financial assistance by the Commonwealth must accept the conditions outlined in the LIEF Funding Agreement. The administering institution must sign the Agreement before funding payments can be made. If the institution is administering more than one grant under the LIEF Program, only one Funding Agreement needs to be completed.

8 Appeals process

Appeals will be considered only against process issues and not against Committee decisions or comments. Appeals must be made on the appeals form available on the ARC website www.arc.gov.au.

The form must be lodged through the institution's research office and be received, **within 28 days** of the date on the letter notifying the outcome of applications, to:

The Appeals Officer, Australian Research Council
GPO Box 2702
CANBERRA ACT 2601

9 Funding administration

9.1 Funding Agreement

Administering organisations should note that the Funding Agreement and post-award management cover the following matters.

9.1.1 *Reporting requirements*

Institutions are required to submit several reports to the Australian Research Council. These comprise:

- *End of Year Report* on the project. This details expenditure of Commonwealth funds and is the mechanism for institutions to seek a carry-forward of unspent funds. The End of Year Report is to be submitted by 31 March in the year following the calendar year for which funds were awarded;
- *Audited Financial Statement*, to be submitted by 30 June of the year following the year for which funds were awarded; and
- *Final Report* on the project. This report must be submitted by 1 November of the year following the calendar year in which all ARC funds and partner contributions have been expended.

The ARC reserves the right to suspend payment of further instalments of any current funding until the appropriate reports have been received and assessed as satisfactory.

9.1.2 *Failure to provide reports*

Where an institution fails to submit satisfactory reports, as required, the Minister may determine that funds have not been used in accordance with conditions applicable to the funding, and that all or part of the funding must be repaid. In this case, the ARC may withhold the remainder of the institution's payments for the current year or initiate recovery of paid funds.

9.1.3 *Varying the Funding Approval and Agreement*

Requests to vary the Funding Approval or the Funding Agreement must be forwarded in writing by the institution's Research Office, or equivalent, to the ARC. The Funding Approval may be varied where any of the following circumstances occur:

- (a) the organisation's involvement with the research program ends;
- (b) the research program changes so that it is no longer consistent with the description in the Funding Approval;

(c) the person named in the funding approval as the person leading the research program ceases to lead the program;

(d) any of the collaborating partner institutions involved in the research program end their involvement with the program;

(e) there are significant alterations to the level of access to the funded equipment or facility granted to the partner institutions; and

(f) any other such circumstances as the ARC may, in its discretion, determine.

9.2 Financial management

LIEF operates on a calendar year basis. Subject to appropriations, payment of funds will be made to institutions in regular instalments, in accordance with approved payment arrangements made under the *Australian Research Council Act 2001*. Funds must be used only for purposes approved under LIEF, otherwise they must be returned.

9.3 Privacy

9.3.1 *Privacy of individuals*

Documents containing personal information are handled and protected in accordance with the provisions of the *Privacy Act 1988* (the Privacy Act). The Privacy Act sets the minimum standards for the collection, storage, access, use and disclosure of personal information by the ARC.

Persons, bodies and organisations involved in the ARC program must abide by the IPPs and the *Privacy Act 1988* when handling personal information collected for the purposes of that program. In brief, persons, bodies and organisations must ensure that:

- personal information is collected in accordance with IPPs 1-3;
- suitable storage arrangements, including appropriate filing procedures are in place;
- suitable security arrangements exist for all records containing personal information;
- access to a person's own personal information held by the organisation is made available to the person at no charge;
- records are accurate, up-to-date, complete and not misleading;
- where a record is found to be inaccurate, the correction is made;
- where a person requests that a record be amended because it is inaccurate but the record is found to be accurate, the details of the request for amendment are noted on the record;
- the personal information is only to be used for the purposes for which it was collected, or for other purposes where expressly allowed by IPP 10; and
- personal information is only disclosed in accordance with IPP 11.

9.3.2 *Privacy complaints and advice*

Complaints about breaches of privacy and requests for advice about privacy should be referred to the Chief Executive Officer of the ARC. Privacy complaints can be made directly to the Federal Privacy Commissioner, but the Federal Privacy Commissioner prefers that the ARC be given an opportunity to deal with the complaint in the first instance.

9.4 Confidentiality

Information contained in applications is regarded as confidential unless otherwise stated and will be received and treated as confidential by the ARC, institutions and assessors.

9.5 Intellectual property

Applicants must agree to comply with the intellectual property statute of the administering organisation and the National Principles of Intellectual Property Management for Publicly Funded Research (available at www.arc.gov.au).

9.6 Incomplete or misleading information

It is a serious offence to provide false or misleading information. If an application is incomplete or contains information that is considered misleading, it will be excluded from any further consideration for funding.

If the ARC believes that omissions or inclusion of misleading information are intentional, or if there is evidence of malpractice, the ARC will refer the matter for appropriate legal advice. The Commonwealth Government is committed to protecting its revenue, expenditure and property from any attempt, whether by members of the public, contractors, sub-contractors, agents, intermediaries or its own employees, to gain financial or other benefits by deceit.

Examples of malpractice include, but are not restricted to:

- providing fictitious track records; and
- falsifying claims in publications records (for example, describing a paper as accepted for publication when it has only been submitted).

9.7 Contact points

For further information, the institution's Research Office should be contacted in the first instance. Enquiries about LIEF may be addressed to:

LIEF Program Co-ordinator
Australian Research Council
GPO Box 2702
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Email arc@arc.gov.au
Phone 02 6284 6600
Fax (02) 6284 6638

APPENDIX 1

Eligible higher education institutions

Higher education institutions receiving Commonwealth funding on a triennial basis

New South Wales

Charles Sturt University
Macquarie University
Southern Cross University
The University of New England
The University of New South Wales
The University of Newcastle
The University of Sydney
University of Technology, Sydney
University of Western Sydney
University of Wollongong

Victoria

Deakin University
La Trobe University
Monash University
RMIT University
Swinburne University of Technology
University of Ballarat
The University of Melbourne
Victoria University of Technology
Melbourne College of Divinity

Queensland

Central Queensland University
Griffith University
James Cook University
Queensland University of Technology
The University of Queensland
University of Southern Queensland
The University of the Sunshine Coast
Bond University

Western Australia

Curtin University of Technology
Edith Cowan University
Murdoch University
The University of Notre Dame Australia
The University of Western Australia

South Australia

The Flinders University of South Australia
The University of Adelaide
University of South Australia

Tasmania

University of Tasmania
Australian Maritime College

Northern Territory

Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary
Education
Northern Territory University

Australian Capital Territory

The Australian National University
University of Canberra

Multi-State

Australian Catholic University

APPENDIX 2

Library and information infrastructure

Applications for library and information infrastructure must address the matters raised here in addition to the requirements specified in the body of these Funding Rules.

One of the aims of the LIEF Program is to fund the development of library and information infrastructure that enhances high-quality research projects. Applications in this category must demonstrate that they will enhance **specific** high-quality research projects, and that they will benefit researchers and scholars nationally. Applications must be collaborative in nature.

All applications for library and information infrastructure should demonstrate:

- how the infrastructure enhances/ will enhance the ability of Australian researchers to access or use information resources effectively and efficiently;
- that the project will not duplicate existing library and information infrastructure, but will link to existing infrastructure in Australia and overseas;
- that the project has the capacity for future development and enhancements;
- that the outcomes are sustainable; and
- that current developments in the information sciences, including international standards and protocols, systems and software to further library and information network inter-operability, are understood and applied.

All applications for library and information infrastructure should address one or more of the following elements of the national library and information infrastructure:

- The development of improvements in access to information resources that can be made available nationally. This may include
 - developing services that provide access to integrated print and electronic information resources, and/or
 - improving the level and quality of access through developing significant new directory, cataloguing or indexing services;
- The testing, development and implementation of innovative and sustainable models that will lead to improved access to distributed information and research library resources;
- The purchase or development of information resources of national significance, whether in electronic form or otherwise, that can be made available nationally. This will include
 - the development of information resources to meet Australian research priorities, and/or
 - proposals to meet or provide resources that will fill significant gaps in the research resources available to the nation.

Applications for library and information infrastructure must outline:

- how access to the resources will be managed (eg through subscription to a database); and
- how the resource will be sustained following the period of LIEF funding. When addressing this point, applicants should note that in general it is desirable that publicly funded databases should be made available to members of the public, unless there are specific reasons for this not to be the case (eg copyright).