

The Library of Congress Web site describes the position of poet laureate and the laureate's role:

*“The poet laureate consultant in poetry to the Library of Congress serves as the nation’s official lightning rod for the poetic impulse of Americans. During his or her term, the poet laureate seeks to raise the national consciousness to a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry.*

*“The poet laureate is appointed annually by the librarian of Congress and serves from October to May.”*