

About the Australian Library and Information Association

Mission

ALIA is the national professional organisation for the Australian library and information sector.

Objects of the Association

- a. To promote the free flow of information and ideas in the interest of all Australians and a thriving culture, economy and democracy
- b. To promote and improve the services provided by all kinds of library and information agencies
- c. To ensure the high standard of personnel engaged in information provision and foster their professional interests and aspirations
- d. To represent the interests of members to governments, other organisations and the community
- e. To encourage people to contribute to the improvement of library and information services through support and membership of the Association.

Vision

To be the Association of choice for information professionals and the library and information services sector.

Values

- Promotion of the free flow of information and ideas through open access to recorded knowledge, information, and creative works
- Connection of people to ideas
- Commitment to literacy, information literacy and learning
- Respect for the diversity and individuality of all people
- Preservation of the human record
- Excellence in professional service to our communities
- Partnerships to advance these values.

About ALIA

The Association seeks to empower the profession in the development, promotion and delivery of quality library and information services to the nation, through leadership, advocacy and mutual support. ALIA has been representing the interests of members and the community since 1937. It fosters a vibrant professional culture in the library and information sector and its advice and opinions are sought and respected by decision makers.

<http://www.alia.org.au>

Our members

Our 6,000 members are drawn from the library and information sector and related fields. ALIA represents the interests of 12 million library users.

Our services and activities

ALIA offers many services to its members, the library and information sector and the people who work within it and use it. ALIA provides:

- recognition of education and practice standards
- professional development such as courses and conferences
- advocacy for issues of professional concern at local, national and international levels
- professional support such as our copyright and industrial relations advice services
- opportunities to develop professional networks through our groups, e-lists and events
- publications that inform members and the sector
- an award program to recognise achievement
- public campaigns to promote the value of libraries and library professionals
- a unified voice when advocating for the sector to governments and other organisations.

Our environment

Australia's library and information sector is innovative, adaptable and collaborative. It has a well-qualified and trained workforce and is at the forefront of international practice. The Association and our members operate in a challenging world characterised by rapid social, economic and technological change, far-reaching changes in the information environment and challenges to the core value of the free flow of information and ideas.

Our structure and governance

The Association is established as a not-for-profit company, governed by an elected Board of Directors. Advisory committees and self-nominating groups within the Association provide a focus for communication and participation by members. A National Advisory Congress is convened annually to provide input on issues of importance to the profession. The Association is supported by a National Office based in Canberra.



Goals for 2009

ALIA members, the Board of Directors and ALIA staff all contribute and work together to achieve these goals.

Members

- Enhance member value for personal and institutional members
- Retain current members and increase the number of new members
- Continue to build a strong member focus based on the member survey results

Participation

- Support ALIA groups, committees and representatives
- Encourage members' participation in the Association
- Acknowledge and celebrate the value of members as volunteers
- Increase engagement by regional and rural members

Building our profession

- Enhance recruitment to the profession
- Develop a vision for education for the profession
- Review, support and promote the professional development program

Sustainability

- Continue to develop financial strategies to ensure sustainability and growth
- Maintain the value of the Association's assets
- Ensure the sustainability of ALIA's information systems
- Attract and retain high quality ALIA staff

Building our community

- Develop, maintain and nurture partnerships
- Support initiatives to promote the sector and the value of libraries
- Advocate to government and key stakeholders

Research and publishing

- Support and promote a research culture in the profession
- Review current ALIA publishing program

For further information on ALIA's planning and management, go to
<http://www.alia.org.au/governance>

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