

# **ALIA Graphic Novels and Comics (ALIA Graphic)**

## **Terms of Reference**

### **Group statement**

ALIA Graphic Novels and Comics is intended to be a resource and network for library and information professionals who are responsible for and/or interested in comics, graphic novels and manga. The group aims to support library staff interested in all aspects of collection development, advocacy and programming related to graphic novels and comics.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the group is to promote comics, graphic novels and manga to libraries, allied institutions and professionals within the GLAMR sector. We aim to raise the profile, awareness and expertise of graphic novels, comics and manga in libraries, with a particular focus on Australian titles and creators.

To this effect, we offer advice upon request to ALIA National and any library service and librarian in all matters pertaining to comics, graphic novels and manga. The Committee also engages regularly with comics creators, publishers and comics related organisations such as comics festivals and awards, promoting their titles and lending support for grants, among others.

ALIA Graphic also publishes regular research and updates on comics related publishing and sales trends, as well as developing knowledge and resources in the evolving field of comics librarianship.

### **Background**

ALIA Graphic Novels and Comics came together after NLS9 in Adelaide. The group was inspired by the great work being done by the ALA's Graphic Novels and Comics Roundtable (<https://www.ala.org/rt/gncrt>). ALIA Graphic has collaborated with them on occasion (on webinars and podcast episodes) and there is regular contact between the groups.

### **Focus**

The ALIA Graphic Committee meets once a month (second Sunday of the month) on Zoom.

The group publishes monthly roundups of news, resources and new titles that are a good fit for libraries. These roundups are produced by the group in collaboration.

The group also publishes regular creator chats that focus almost exclusively on Australian comics creators but sometimes include international guests and other interesting guests, such as comics festivals and librarians with particular expertise.

The group also carries out research and dissemination activities through webinars, journal and Incite magazine articles and our own website.

We also aim to provide networking and PD opportunities for library staff through our committee meetings and ALIA Graphic Book Club.

Finally, we aim to connect and build bridges with Australian creators and publishers of comics and graphic novels and publish our yearly Notables Australian Graphic Novels list.

### **Commitment to sustainability and leadership development**

ALIA Graphic is committed to leadership development and sustainability of the group. The Committee shares a Google Drive. This drive contains all the working documents and assets for the group. We have also ensured that a number of committee members possess the know-how and ability to perform key roles, through information sharing during committee meetings and special training sessions for committee members. For example, training for how to produce and upload podcasts and videos, how to publish blog posts and customise our website, to cite a couple.

The focus of the group in the first few years has been in developing processes, regularly posting practical updates (podcasts, website, webinars) and creating a stable committee. More initiatives in relation to leadership and succession will be carried out as the committee stabilises and continues to evolve.

### **Membership**

The Group is open to all. ALIA Members may join a Group at any time, without charge. Non-ALIA-Members can join a group, but they cannot hold an office bearing role (such as convenor, treasurer or secretary).

The Core Committee has the following office holders:

Iurgi Urrutia, Convenor

James Baker, Secretary

Treasurer, Marissa King

Communications, Gabby Cundy and Jade Smith

Research, Rebecca Teitzel and Mia Karvouniaris

Office holders must be an ALIA personal member or the formal nominee of the appointed representative, of an Institutional or Corporate Member.

### **Determining Office Holders**

Office holders have been decided in end of year committee meetings. As the Committee has been small in previous years members were asked to volunteer in the meeting. Since there have never been two candidates for the same position no voting has been required. However, it may be time to implement a more formal process, seeking candidates and with secret voting.

### **Relationships**

The Group will work collaboratively with ALIA National Office and other ALIA Committees and Groups as required. The following Groups or Committees are of particular relevance:

ALIA Schools, ALIA Regional Groups, ALIA New Grads, ALIA CYS

The Group also collaborates with international library organisations and vendors as required and as opportunities present themselves. The following organisations are of particular relevance:

American Library Association, Graphic Novels and Comics Roundtable, Public Libraries Victoria, Australian School Library Association, LIANZA

### **Responsibilities**

The Core Committee is responsible for following the guidance in the Groups Handbook.

We respond and advise as required by ALIA on any issues pertaining to comics, graphic novels and manga.

We also respond to emails requesting support and advice from library services and librarians.

### **Frequency of Meetings**

ALIA Graphic meets monthly at 7pm on the second Sunday of each month on Zoom. Additional meetings may be called to address specific issues/events if required.

### **Changes to the terms of reference**

The terms of reference may be revised by the Core Committee in consultation with Group members and submitted to the ALIA CEO for approval. These Terms of Reference will be reviewed as required, but no less than three yearly to ensure they serve the best interests of the Committee and correctly reflect current ALIA and ALIA Graphic protocols for groups.

**Version history**

Drafted June 2024

**Next revision due**

By June 2027