



ALIA Strategic Plan 2019-2023

VISION: ALIA is the association of choice representing the library and information sector

This is an exciting time for the library and information industry, with technologies creating new ways of fulfilling our fundamental role of connecting people with information and ideas.

Change brings with it challenges, and ALIA needs to keep pace with what is happening in the industry and provide the kind of support our Members need to stay ahead. We are constantly evolving as an association, reflecting the rapid changes in the information marketplace. We will be agile, vocal and responsive; we will focus on our leadership role in advocacy, education and professional development.

About ALIA

We have been representing the interests of our members in the library and information industry since 1937. We continue to invest in advocacy, education and professional development; supporting library leaders, library and information professionals and people from other disciplines who work in the sector.

Our 5000 members include libraries, information services, library and information professionals, people who work in libraries, industry partners, educators, students and retired members. Our membership base continues to evolve and expand as we invite all who work in the information sector and share our ideals to join us. Through our advocacy campaigns we also provide a voice for Australia's 10 million-plus library and information service users.

The Association is established as a not-for-profit company, governed by an elected Board of Directors. Advisory Committees and special interest groups within the Association enable Members to be closely involved. The Association is supported by a team primarily based at ALIA House in Canberra and a local manager in every state and territory.

The Objects and Values of the Association

In our Constitution we list the Objects of the Association:

- To promote the free flow of information and ideas in the interest of all Australians and a thriving culture, economy, environment and democracy. To promote and improve the services provided by all kinds of library and information agencies.
- To ensure the high standard of personnel engaged in information provision and foster their professional interests and aspirations.
- To represent the interests of members to governments, other organisations and the community.
- To encourage people to contribute to the improvement of library and information services through support and membership of the Association.
- To endorse the principles of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights- Article 19 and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in response to the many challenges faced by the world today and into the future.

Our values are:

- Promotion of the free flow of information and ideas through open access to recorded knowledge, information, and creative works.
- Delivery of authentic information and evidence-based practice supported by quality research.
- Connection of people to ideas, knowledge creation and learning.
- Dedication to fostering reading, information and digital literacies.
- Respect for the diversity, individuality and equality of all and recognition of the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Adherence to information privacy principles.
- Management, organisation and preservation of the human record.
- Excellence, accountability, integrity and responsibility in service to our communities.
- Commitment to maintaining currency of professional knowledge and practice.
- Partnerships and collaborations to advance these values.

Strategic priorities

ALIA will achieve its vision, provide leadership, and influence the successful evolution of the library and information (LIS) sector in Australia through the four strategic priorities described below.

We will actively seek out partnerships and opportunities for collaboration which will complement our strategic priorities and provide us with further opportunities to expand our capacity, reach and profile.

1. LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

- We will communicate compelling stories and information about the value, vibrancy and strength of the LIS profession.
- We will leverage our national and international profile, continuing to build our lobbying and advocacy activities with federal, state, territory and local governments, and with other agencies.
- We will foster strategic relationships with peak bodies and other organisations to strengthen our position on important issues affecting the GLAMR (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums and Records) sector and beyond.
- We will retain our focus on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- We will pursue our commitment to improving opportunities for library staff from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background and to supporting our members in providing culturally appropriate services for Indigenous library users.

2. MEMBERS AND MEMBERSHIP

- We will ensure ALIA membership is relevant, rewarding and valued.
- We will retain and grow the Member base through greater connection, communication and engagement.
- We will develop our membership services to reflect a contemporary approach.
- We will recognise Members' contribution to the profession through their support of ALIA.



3. EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- We will influence and shape the direction of LIS education.
- We will work to ensure that education remains relevant to the needs of employers.
- We will encourage and enable members to develop, adapt and enhance their skills to meet the challenges of an evolving society.
- We will deliver relevant, engaging and inclusive professional development.
- We will support leadership capability within our membership and the library and information sector, recognising that leadership occurs at all levels within organisations.

4. FUTURE-PROOFING ALIA

- We will ensure the Association's financial sustainability and responsibly manage the Association's assets.
- We will continue to invest in a modern, forward-facing digital presence for the Association.

Review and reporting

ALIA's work will be focused on these four priorities for the five years from 2019-2023. The ALIA Board will realign the strategies beneath each of these priorities at its annual strategic planning meeting. The Directors will review the Association's business operating plan and achievements against these priorities and will report back to the membership through the ALIA Annual Report, published each May.

