



ALIA submission in response to the review of the ANZ Standard Research Classification

17 May 2019

1. About us

The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) is the professional organisation and peak body for the Australian library and information services sector.

On behalf of our 5,000 personal and institutional members, we provide the national voice of the profession in the development, promotion and delivery of quality library and information services to the nation, through leadership, advocacy and mutual support. We represent school, public, academic, research, corporate, law, health, government, National, State and Territory libraries and the people who staff them.

We are the professional body which accredits library and information science (LIS) courses at VET and higher education level, and we have a strong interest in LIS research.

- ALIA is an Approved Research Institute with Deductible Gift Recipient status according to the Australian Tax Office rules.
- We provide several research grants to Members and we encourage collaboration between academics, researchers and practitioners.
- Over the last five years, ALIA has supported successful LIS ARC linkage grant projects as an industry partner and there are further applications in the pipeline.
- We disseminate Australian LIS research through the *Journal of the Australian Library and Information Association* and we provide opportunities for peer review of conference papers.
- Our ALIA Research Advisory Committee comprises leading LIS academics and researchers who advise the ALIA Board on topics of note, such as this review.
- We are closely involved in discussions about open access to government funded research, for example, we have participated in the consultation around new data sharing and release legislation through PM&C.

2. About library and information science in Australia

Library and information science (LIS) is an internationally recognised discipline, with a long and successful history in Australia. For example, Charles Sturt University is home to one of the world's largest schools of information studies, with a strong global reputation, and there are other highly regarded centres for LIS education in New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia. We have a significant number of LIS PhD students all around Australia, guaranteeing a future cohort of academics, researchers and thought leaders.

LIS crosses a number of areas. We are strongly and increasingly involved in technology and IT-powered content. We are embedded in the education agenda, whether through formal VET and higher education or through informal lifelong learning. The role of information as an asset makes LIS knowledge and skills highly appropriate to business, government and organisations that rely on high quality data. At the same time, we have longstanding connections with arts and humanities, through our relationship to galleries, archives, museums and other cultural institutions. Further factors are the rapidly changing environment for LIS and the impact of digital disruption.

This multi-faceted profile for LIS has guided our response to the ANZ Standard Research Classification review.

3. Consultation

Our response is based on recommendations provided by the ALIA Research Advisory Committee to the ALIA Board. From February-May 2019, the ALIA Research Advisory Committee consulted with academics and researchers in the LIS field, both direct and through the Information Studies Educators' Forum (ISEF), an online forum used by LIS academics. ALIA promoted an ISEF discussion paper and survey providing options for an industry response to the review, and this provided a further opportunity for engagement.

While there was interest in exploring a closer connection with Division 20: Language, Communication and Culture, it was recognised that our current position in Division 08: Information and Computing Sciences provides a good location for LIS and has supported successful research projects, to the benefit of LIS in Australia and internationally. However, there was interest in relocating Health Informatics to Division 11 Medical and Health Sciences.

We are pleased to have consulted with the information and computing sciences community through CORE for computer science, and we are part of the combined CORE, ACPHIS, ALIA and ACDICT submission. We also support the submission by the Australasian College of Health Informatics.

4. Response

We recommend to the ANZ Standard Research Classification review board that LIS retain its 0807 code but with changes to terminology to reflect the changing nature of LIS; with the addition of two new fields, and with the relocation of Health Informatics to Division 11.

This would result in the following:

- 0807 Library and Information studies
 - 080701 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Māori, Pacific Peoples and Other Indigenous Peoples Knowledge Management (*renamed from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Knowledge Management*)
 - ~~080702 Health Informatics~~ (move to Division 11 Medical and Health Sciences, Group 1117 Public Health and Health Services, Field 111711 renamed *Health Informatics and Information Management, Systems and Technology*)
 - 080703 Human Information Behaviour

- 080704 Human Information Interaction and Retrieval (*renamed from Information Retrieval and Web Search*)
- 080705 Informetrics
- 080706 Library Studies (*renamed from Librarianship*)
- 080707 Organisation of Information and Knowledge Resources
- 080708 Recordkeeping Informatics (*renamed from Records and Information Management*)
- 080709 Social and Community Informatics
- 080710 Information Governance, Policy and Ethics (*new*)
- 080711 Digital Curation and Preservation (*new*)
- 080799 Library and Information Studies not elsewhere classified

Other considerations, in line with CORE, ACPHIS, ACDICT and ACHI:

- We support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Maori and Pacific Peoples studies having their own Division or a 4-digit code in multiple divisions. We accept that this could necessitate a change to 080701.
- We also support consistency across the divisions, and consultation with Indigenous researchers about the best treatment of the three identities: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Maori and Pacific people. We have proposed a change to 080701 as a result of this.
- We are open to the potential for 'ethics' and 'research methods' to be in their own Divisions, a group within a number of divisions or scattered fields.
- We agree with the retention of a FoR code for 'applications in health' within Division 08 for use where the main aim of the research is to contribute to information and computing sciences.

5. Summary

On behalf of our members, representing library and information professionals, libraries and information services, academics, researchers, research practitioners and the LIS community Australia-wide, ALIA welcomes the opportunity to provide a response to the ANZ Standard Research Classification review.

For LIS, we recommend the relocation and renaming of one FoR (080702), the renaming of four FoR (080701, 080704, 080706 and 080708) and the addition of two new FoR (080710 and 080711).

We would be pleased to be involved in further discussions about the review as required by the review board.

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