

ALIA International Relations Statement

ALIA Constitution Objects addressed:

- 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 encourage people to contribute to the improvement of library and information services through support and membership 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 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.

Principle

The Australian Library and Information Association is committed to active participation in the global library community, supporting international library associations, providing leadership through ALIA's expertise and promoting greater understanding of international librarianship and library issues in the global information environment.

Relationships with international associations and organisations will be consistent with ALIA's core values and reflect ALIA's expertise, capability and capacity.

Statement

- ALIA recognises the global information environment in which its members operate and the importance of the Australian profession making a considered and proactive international professional contribution.
- The Association will promote and pursue collaboration with library and information organisations throughout the world to ensure equity of access to information worldwide, highlight the key role of library and information services and practitioners and build upon the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) framework.¹
- The Association is a member of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and encourages active involvement by ALIA members in IFLA's work and activities, learning from and contributing to international activities and programs.
- When partnering, ALIA's priority is the South East Asia, Pacific and Oceania regions.
- ALIA may consider bi lateral or multi party relationships of mutual benefit through Board endorsed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with other like-minded international bodies and associations. Relationships will be built upon shared understanding and values articulated and fostered through open communication and with flexibility to respond to changing circumstances.

¹ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

- ALIA's support of other associations will primarily be in kind and online including but not limited to education, professional development, course accreditation, sharing of best practice and collateral and advocacy.
- The Association will use advocacy to influence government and other bodies on matters of international concern to the library and information services sector.
- The Association will work to influence the foreign and trade policies of the Australian Government, its aid agencies and key national consultative bodies, including the Australian National Commission for UNESCO, to encourage the support of libraries throughout the world, the achievement of the UN SDGs and to create opportunities for participation in appropriate programs by Australian professionals.
- We will make every effort to ensure there is no contravention of sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council to which Australia is bound, or Autonomous Sanctions imposed by Australia before entering into a relationship.
- We will consider relationships with organisations located within countries that are emerging from conflict, that do not have a robust form of democratic government, or for some other reason carry cautionary advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, on a case-by-case basis and after consideration of risk. Partnership in these circumstances must serve to strengthen civil society, foster social development, advance the SDGs and must not endanger the safety of individuals as a result of activities undertaken as part of the collaboration.