



# ALIA's relationships with international library associations and organisations policy 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; and
- 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 supports library associations around the world. Support for international library associations will be consistent with ALIA's core values policy statement.

## Statement

ALIA's strong focus is associations in developing nations within the region and areas where ALIA has policy expertise and knowledge. Priority for support of overseas libraries and library associations is given to those from South East Asian, Pacific and Oceania countries.

ALIA may also consider entering into bilateral or multi party relationships of mutual benefit through Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with other like-minded international associations. The MOU will identify the working relationships, shared interests and common understanding that exist between collaborating associations.



Assistance and support are primarily available in the form of in-kind support such as online sharing or access to ALIA's:

- Administrative resources and best practice advice
- Volunteer network
- Advocacy
- Library and information education, course accreditation and professional development
- IP and collateral.

The general principles we apply to our relationships with international library associations and international organisations:

- We seek relationships that will reflect ALIA's values and expertise.
- We will consider the potential outcomes and mutual benefits, either directly or indirectly, from each relationship and review these periodically to ensure relationships continue to be of benefit to ALIA members and their role in the international library community.
- We will build relationships upon shared understandings and values, clearly articulated expectations, and foster them through open communication.
- We seek flexibility within a relationship, with mechanisms in place to deal with changes in circumstances and to identify and manage risk.
- We will seek to build upon the UN Sustainable Development Goals framework.
- Our relationship with other organisations does not imply ALIA endorsement of their policies, services or products.
- We will not knowingly enter into a relationship with an organisation that discriminates on the basis of race, creed, colour, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disabilities or national origin.
- We will assess the reputation and ethical integrity of the organisation with which a relationship is proposed before any arrangement is entered into.
- We will ensure that the appropriate personnel (staff and Members) are available to work with the external organisation and that their time and talent will be used effectively.



- 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. These can include restrictions on the provision of goods and services and can also relate to designated persons and organisations.
- 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 UN2030 Sustainable Development Goals and must not endanger the safety of individuals as a result of activities undertaken as part of the collaboration.

### **Governance**

Initial requests for assistance should be made to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association. Any proposed support for overseas libraries and library associations and MOU must be sanctioned by the ALIA Board before they are agreed.

Reviewed 2013. Amended 2018.