



Australia's new Interlibrary Resource Sharing Code

Following extensive consultation across the Australian library sector in 2005, the new Australian Interlibrary Resource Sharing (ILRS) Code has now been endorsed by the library sector's peak bodies. The ILRS Code is the voluntary code of practice that supports resource sharing and co-operation in interlibrary-lending (ILL) among Australian libraries. The review was co-ordinated by the ALIA Interlibrary Lending Expert Advisory Group.

The revised Code replaces that adopted by the library sector in 2001. The principal reasons for reviewing and updating the Code were to simplify the service level standards of the Code; to ensure that the Code was compatible and supportive of automation of interlibrary lending operations; to meet changing services and user needs; and to review recommended pricing and pricing models.

The main features of the new ILRS Code are:

- There are no changes to the recommended fee for the Core service, nor to the levies for Express and Rush services. The consultation on the review of the Code found that while the library sector overall supports the principle of recommended pricing to provide partial compensation and cost recovery for net lenders, for the benefit of the sector as a whole, there is no consensus across the library sector on the guiding principles and data on which to set recommended prices.
- The revisions to the ILRS code ensure that it remains a national code of practice covering all libraries, large and small, from all sectors and whether using automated interlibrary lending systems or not. At the same time the new Code takes into account the automated environment for interlibrary lending.
- ALIA's Interlibrary Lending Expert Advisory Group would like to acknowledge the extensive contribution and input to the review of the ILRS Code by many library organisations, libraries and individuals working in interlibrary lending and document delivery around the country.
- The new Interlibrary Resource Sharing Code was launched at the Resource Sharing Forum, hosted by the National Library of Australia on 18 May 2006.
- The Expert Group will be following up the launch of the new Code with a program to promote the Code. It will be exploring how the ILL community might use Wiki technology to develop and maintain a manual of best practice for ILL.
- ALIA hopes to work with Council of Australian State Libraries (CASL), The Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) and the National Library on a collaborative project to gather data on ILL supply costs and to develop a costing tool for ILL/document delivery supply that could be used by all sectors. The survey of ILL/document delivery benchmarking currently being co-ordinated by the National Library, reported at the 18 May Resource Sharing Forum, will contribute to this project.
- The revised Australian Interlibrary Resource Sharing Code is available online at <http://alia.org.au/interlibrary.lending/ilrs.code.html>. Print copies are also available on request from ALIA National Office. For more information please contact Susan Magnay, Manager planning policy, susan.magnay@alia.org.au.

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