

Review of ALIA policies and guidelines: call for submissions

Several of ALIA's policies and guidelines covering all areas of library and information services are due for revision during 2009. ALIA and its specialised committees are seeking input from members of the profession and library users to the review process.

The policies which are under review are set out below. The current policy statements are at <http://www.alia.org.au/policies>

- ALIA's role in education of library and information professionals
- Courses in library and information management
- Professional development for library and information professionals
- Teacher-librarians: ALIA/ASLA joint statement on teacher librarians*
- ALIA's role in research
- Joint-use libraries*
- Library and information services for people with a disability
- Library and information services in schools*
- Public library services
- ALIA and international relations
- Information as a commodity and its importance to economic development
- Online content regulation and Regulation Reference Group Guidelines
- Preservation: the permanence and durability of information products
- Principles of access to government information

ALIA's guidelines can be found at <http://www.alia.org.au/policies/index.guidelines.html> Guidelines being reviewed in 2009 are:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander protocols
- Dispersal of collections in government agency libraries
- Guidelines for assistance to library and information personnel in developing countries (to be reviewed in conjunction with policy on ALIA and international relations)
- Guidelines for Australian home library services
- Guidelines for Australian special libraries
- Guidelines on standards for people with disabilities (to be reviewed in conjunction with policy on Library and information services for people with a disability)
- Guidelines for management of the Association's archives (to be reviewed in conjunction with general guidelines on dispersal of collections)
- Standards of professional excellence for teacher-librarians*

*These policies and guidelines are being reviewed by the ALIA/ASLA policy advisory group.

Receipt of submissions on review of policies and guidelines is being coordinated by Heather Nash in the ALIA National Office. Submissions should be sent electronically to heather.nash@alia.org.au

Any queries on the review process should be addressed to Heather on (02) 6215 8228.

Closing date for receipt of submissions is Monday, 1 June 2009

Taking the library out of librarian

The Edinburgh Council seems to have been sampling a little too much of that fine single malt whisky recently. According to a report by the UK Telegraph (12 January 2009), they've decided to rename their librarians 'audience development officers' or ADOs.

Council power brokers, while acknowledging that the old job descriptions did "what it says on the tin" (or should that be whisky label?), decided the community libraries needed a good shake up for the 21st century.

If the blogosphere is representative, then the international library community has reacted with a mixture of derision, disgust, and falling down laughing. The ADOs themselves have expressed their feelings on being 're-branded' by threatening to strike, after 95% of staff rejected their new terms and conditions.

We've become accustomed to titles such as Bibliographic Instruction Coordinator, Business Information Specialist, Cybrarian, Information Associate, and Knowledge Architect

in libraries but has 'Audience Development Officer' blurred the boundaries of our identity a little too much? Many library workers believe that the image of the profession isn't aligned with the high-tech, highly skilled, quality focused, and richly diverse reality of what we do. The Edinburgh Council has given us more food for thought.

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