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UPDATING ILRS

The Interlibrary Resource Sharing (ILRS) code was last updated in 2006 and, although prices changed in 2011, the code itself hadn't changed substantially over the years. In early 2013 the ALIA Interlending Advisory Committee conducted a survey on the code to identify any areas for change and any potential issues that may have needed to be addressed to improve interlibrary lending and document delivery (ILL/DD) processes in libraries.

The feedback received from the library community confirmed the principles in the code were still sound but identified some areas of concern. In reviewing the comments, the Committee felt many of these concerns would be better addressed in best practice guidelines which can more easily be changed to meet ILL/DD practitioners' needs, rather than in a set of principles which are reviewed infrequently.

As a result, the ILRS code has now been updated and simplified. It now identifies responsibilities for libraries participating in ILL/DD in general, followed by responsibilities as a requesting and as a supplying library.

This change is expected to clarify the various responsibilities for libraries that adopt the code; for example it clarifies the responsibility for costs of delivery of material and particularly where the material is lost in transit, dividing the responsibility between supplying and requesting libraries. The revised code can be found on the ALIA website at bit.ly/1gBWaD5.

As mentioned above, the revision of the code identified a number of suggestions, comments and concerns that the Committee believes are better suited to a set of best practice guidelines. These have been organised into three sections covering general, requesting and supplying guidelines. The *Best Practice Guidelines* can be found on the ALIA ShareIt wiki (now at shareit.alianational.wikispaces.net/).

The ShareIt wiki was developed in 2008 for interlibrary loan and document delivery practitioners. It was migrated to the new ALIA website last year. Your contribution is most welcome either on the ShareIt wiki or by contacting the committee members at ilrscodereview@nla.gov.au.

The ALIA Interlending Advisory Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the review of the code.

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