TALKING ABOUT
STANDARDS...

In this issue I pan back from standards of personal professional behaviours to the standards that connect us: language, and the ubiquitous global platform we use – the web. Good governance underpins the functioning and development of standards, that in turn scaffold the systems, services, and processes we use on a daily basis. The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) is an example of an international group committed to good governance to maintain open and engaging infrastructure.

Setting standards for the Web

W3C is an international community of member organisations, full-time staff, and the public who work together to lead the web to its full potential (w3.org/Consortium). Led by the inventor of the web, Tim Berners-Lee, and W3C CEO Jeffrey Jaffe the W3C develops open standards to ensure the long-term growth of the web.

W3C standards encompass web design and applications; web of devices; web architecture; the semantic web; XML technology; web of services; and browsers and authoring tools. With organisational members located all over the world and involved in many different fields, the W3C is a vendor-neutral forum for the creation of web standards.

In this context, net neutrality – where internet service providers treat all internet communications and content equally irrespective of provider, platform, user, website, or equipment – remains a fundamental element of freedom of information for a fair, open, and democratic society.

Austlang – Australian Indigenous Languages Database

During NAIDOC Week AIATSIS, the National State and Territory Library of Australia, Trove, and Libraries Australia held a code-a-thon to identify and tag items in Trove using the Austlang database of Indigenous Australian languages. Over 8,400 language codes were added to catalogue records and over 3,700 language codes were added as Trove tags. The official code-a-thon is over, but there is a wealth of resources available to libraries to continue to enhance their collection information with Austlang codes and to celebrate UNESCO's Year of Indigenous Languages throughout 2019.

These cataloguing notes on adding Austlang codes to bibliographic records (bit.ly/2JVhqLm) are a practical support for libraries enhancing their catalogue records pertaining to Indigenous language content. Additional information about the Austlang database, and information on how to add Austlang codes to your catalogue are available at: Austlang (bit.ly/2P2ykbs); Austlang webinar (bit.ly/2SwTkuj); and Austlang data set (bit.ly/30NBAxr).

Guidelines for Joint Use Libraries

ALIA's policy on joint-use libraries has been reviewed and amended and is available at (bit.ly/32C9Bm6). Recognising the complexities in managing and operating joint-use libraries, the updated policy outlines the requirements for successful joint-use libraries and covers all aspects from governance, collection management, community access and engagement, facilities management, staffing models, and service evaluation.

This column highlights the intersection of standards and our information profession. Please get in touch to highlight, connect or promote standards activities.

MONIKA SZUNEJKO AALIA (CP)
Director, Resources and
Technology Services
Monash University Library
monika.szunejko@monash.edu