

Interlibrary Resource Sharing Code launched

ALIA president, Professor Mairéad Browne, launched the new Interlibrary Resource Sharing [ILRS] Code at a reception held at the Australian National Maritime Museum and hosted by the National Library of Australia during the recent Information online conference.

Professor Browne said, 'library users nominate the ability to obtain resources from beyond their own libraries and institutions as one of the most valued library services. The new Code will help libraries to improve the reliability and consistency of ILL services and give more choice and flexibility to users'. She encouraged all libraries to adopt the new Code.

What does the new Code deliver?

The ILRS Code updates the Australian Interlending Code last substantially reviewed in 1994. The new Code delivers:

- flexibility and choice to meet varied user needs;
- clearly defined and unambiguous service standards, for example, for turnaround time and delivery method;
- a specified turnaround time for a core level of service;
- greater predicability and consistency; and
- increased incentives for libraries to improve their ILL supplying operations.

What is in the new Code?

There are new service standards and core principles for interlibrary loan and document supply transactions between libraries. The service standards set out four levels of service:

Core (5-day turnaround)

Priority (2-day turnaround)

Rush (1-day turnaround)

Express (2-hour turnaround)

There is a default or fall-back level when the Core service cannot be met. There is a scale of recommended charges based on the current rates.

Who will use it and when?

The Code has been endorsed by the peak library organisations (National Library of Australia, CAUL, CASL and ALIA) for adoption by all Australian libraries. Libraries will commence using the Code in the first quarter of 2001.

How do I find out more?

To accompany the Code there is a more detailed *Guide to best practice for interlibrary resource sharing in Australia* [<http://www.nla.gov.au/initiatives/ilrscod/ilrsbp.html>].

A series of one-day workshops conducted by AIMA Training and Consultancy Services will assist participants develop implementation strategies for their own libraries, including processes, procedures and policies within the library, for users and in dealing with other libraries. Workshops will be held in all capital cities, and some regional centres, from late February. You can get more information and express an interest in attending a workshop at the AIMA web site: <http://www.aima.org.au>. Watch the *inCite* events column for details.

Members of the National Resource Sharing Working Group (NRSWG) are available to attend meetings to discuss the Code. The NRSWG welcomes comments and questions. See the NRSWG web page for contact details: <http://www.nla.gov.au/initiatives/nrswg/>.

How was the Code developed?

The Code is the culmination of eighteen months of intensive work by the NRSWG, with contributions from many colleagues. The NRSWG researched Australian and overseas interlending practices, codes and standards; consulted libraries and users; and mapped interlending processes for both requesting and supplying libraries.

The NRSWG was set up in 1999 by the National Library of Australia with support from ALIA, CASL, CAUL and the Australian Library Collections Task Force. It is a committee of ILL practitioners and managers from all library sectors. The NRSWG was established in response to widespread concerns among libraries and library users about the effectiveness of Australia's national resource sharing system. Their brief is to ensure a robust, reliable and cost-effective interlending system is in place to support Australian libraries in meeting the needs of their users.

The Code is available from <http://www.alia.org.au/interlibrary.lending/>. Brochures are also available from ALIA, phone 02 6285 1877, fax 02 6282 2249, or e-mail enquiry@alia.org.au. ■

Australian
Library and
Information
Association

ALIA
Awards for
Innovation

Nominations are now being
called for the 2001 awards

These awards, first awarded in 1996, recognise innovative practices by library staff in any aspect of library activity – for example, design of a brochure or world wide web page, or for teamwork. Originally awarded in Victoria, the Awards for Innovation went national in 2000.

An award is made in each of the following categories: academic (universities and TAFE); public libraries; school libraries; special libraries; law libraries; and health libraries.

Applications should be sent to ALIA National Office, PO Box E441, Kingston ACT 2604
phone 02 6285 1877, fax 02 6282 2249
e-mail awards@alia.org.au

URL <http://www.alia.org.au/awards/>

Nominations close 15 March 2001



This award
is proudly
sponsored
by Library
Locums

ALIA

Libraries
Alive!

The practitioners'
consortium - an
independent Australian
consulting company
creating library services
for the 21st century.
Verve and zest in
information management?

For details please contact
Ian McCallum
Sherrey Quinn

on (02) 6257 9177 or email at
ian.mccallum@alianet.alia.org.au