

Your comments on core values...

ALIA has no core values statement to underpin its objects. The experience of the American Library Association Core Values Task Force has shown that the drafting of a set of core values takes time and careful consideration. The ALIA Board of Directors has drafted a statement derived from the ALA's own statement, which can be viewed in its final iteration at <http://www.ala.org/congress/corevalues/docs.html>.

Members are invited to comment on the following draft, which once agreed to, will underpin the Association's objects. Please respond either through a forum at <http://www.alia.org.au/governance/core.values.html> or via written responses to the ALIA executive director by 30 October 2000.

Draft statement on core values

Drafted June 2000

The core values of the Australian Library and Information Association are:

Assurance of free and open access to recorded knowledge, information, and creative works. We recognise unfettered access to ideas across time and across cultures is fundamental to society and to civilisation.

Connection of people to ideas. We guide and educate the seeker in defining and refining the search; foster intellectual enquiry and freedom; and nurture communication in all forms and formats.

Commitment to literacy, information literacy and learning. We foster independent lifelong learning by providing resources that meet the differing needs of all learners and entertain and delight the human spirit.

Respect for the individuality and the diversity of all people.

We honour each request without bias, and meet it with the fullness of tools at our command. We respect privacy, confidentiality, and the right of access to library and information services and resources regardless of race, creed, national origin, age, ability, gender, or sexual orientation.

Preservation of the human record. We seek to preserve the cultural memory of humankind and its many families, its stories, its expertise, its history, and its evolved wisdom so it may illuminate the present and make the future possible.

Excellence in professional service to our communities. We are committed to integrity, competence, personal growth, effective stewardship, and service to our profession and to our public.

Partnerships to advance these values. We believe in the interdependence of libraries and library staff and advocate collaboration between all types of libraries and information services for the public and private good.

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