

Resource sharing – review of ILRS code commences

The Interlibrary Resource Sharing (ILRS) Code is the voluntary code of practice that supports co-operative, fair and efficient resource sharing between Australian libraries.

Starting in July 2005, ALIA's Interlibrary Lending Expert Advisory Group (ILLEAG) will be co-ordinating a review of the ILRS Code. This will be the first comprehensive review since the Code's introduction in 2001. The ILRS Code is endorsed by ALIA, the Council of Australian State Libraries (CASL), the Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) and the National Library of Australia (NLA). It replaced the earlier ACLIS Australian Interlending Code in 2001 and, since then, has had only minor amendments.

The review of the ILRS Code is one of the actions referred to ALIA by the final forum of the National Resource Sharing Working Group and the National Resource Sharing Policy Committee, convened by NLA in July 2004.

The ILLEAG invites interested individuals, libraries and organisations to contribute to the review of the ILRS Code. A consultation paper addressing the purpose and principles of the code, service-level standards and recommended pricing is now available for comment on the ALIA website. The consultation paper will also be publicised through relevant e-lists and will be discussed at forthcoming Kinetica Document Delivery User Group meetings and other relevant meetings. Library sector organisations are being contacted to provide input. Feedback received will be made available through the ALIA website.

The consultation period will be from early July to 31 August 2005. Based on the feedback received, a draft revised code

will be made available for comment in October 2005 with the aim of presenting the final revised code for endorsement by the sector peak bodies by early 2006.

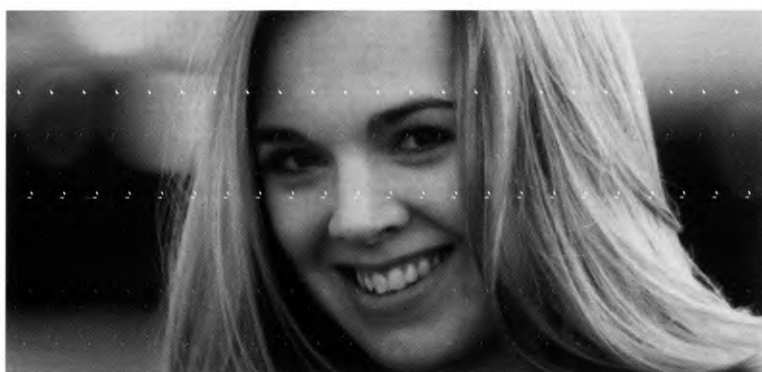
Policy issues for resource sharing

At the same time as the review of the code, the ILLEAG, on behalf of ALIA, is developing a discussion paper on the key policy issues for resource sharing in Australia over the next five years. This is not least to ensure that the redevelopment of the ILRS Code is forward-looking and is in the context of the changing policy, service and technological environment of library services in Australia. The paper will be prepared with wide input from across library sectors and will be put forward for discussion at the resource sharing forum to be organised by NLA in late 2005.

Best practice manual for interlibrary lending

Interlibrary lending relies on good information about sources of material, policies and procedures to provide an effective service to library users. At the 2004 resource sharing forum, it was agreed that an online manual or resource for Australian interlibrary lending practice would be a valuable tool. However, the challenge is in maintaining the currency and relevance of such a resource in today's environment. From early 2006, ILLEAG will be looking at options for an online site on interlibrary loan policy and practice for Australian libraries.

For more information and details on how to contribute to the review, go to <http://alia.org.au/interlibrary.lending/> or contact Susan Magnay, susan.magnay@alia.org.au, ph 02 6215 8225. ■



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