

TAFE LIBRARIES – THE TRUE STORY

In 2013, the ALIA TAFE Libraries Advisory Committee will begin trialling the collection of data about TAFE libraries in an effort to gather national statistics – and support our advocacy efforts in this sector.

TLAC have set up a LibAnalytics system that will collect annual statistics in nine categories:

- Borrowers
- Budget (General)
- Collection Profile
- Information Literacy
- Institute Profile
- Library Profile
- Library Resources Budget
- Loans
- Reference

Records and information can be added directly in to the system, making it easy for TAFE library workers to do so at the source.

Once collected, TLAC and ALIA hope this data will create a wealth of information that can be used as part of advocacy campaigns to demonstrate the value of TAFE libraries, their worth to students and faculty, and the importance of the security of their future.

PUBLIC LIBRARY BENCHMARKING CALCULATOR

On Library Lovers' Day 2013, ALIA was pleased to launch ALIA Public Library Benchmarking Calculator. This calculator is an easy way for public libraries to measure their performance against national standards and guidelines and to find out whether they are on target, below target, or above target.

The calculator is designed as a tool for managers to identify strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and challenges – and it will help library leaders advocate for investment in improvements with their council funders. It has been created as the companion piece to the ALIA *Standards and Guidelines for Australian Public Libraries*, now in its second edition. This publication was produced by Libraries Alive! and supported by the state and territory libraries and library associations.

Jan Richards, chair of PLAC, noted, "Since the launch of the 1st edition of *Beyond a quality service: strengthening the social fabric* in 2011 public librarians across the country have found the Standards and Guidelines an invaluable tool to monitor and demonstrate performance. This calculator, developed to coincide with the release of the 2nd edition, makes a great tool even more effective allowing easy comparison and a solid base for advocacy and action."

The public library benchmarking calculator is an initiative of the ALIA Public Library Advisory Committee and is available on the ALIA website.



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