

TALKING ABOUT STANDARDS...



Standards and guidelines provide practical support and frameworks to keep libraries informed, interconnected and innovative. Through standards we speak the same language and communicate through systems and shared understanding with other libraries, systems, and vendors. Standards provide scaffolding for library and patron advocacy, interoperability so our systems can talk to each other, information about better practice, and help us benchmark our operations to demonstrate impact and value.

This column highlights some exciting recent activities in the standards space. Please get in touch to connect or promote standards activities.

Australian language codes recognised in the MARC standard

Improving the description, discoverability, and access to Australian Indigenous language material, 'Austlang' codes are now recognised in the MARC standard Language Source Code list. Austlang uses unique codes to identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages (bit.ly/2P2ykbs). In October 2018 the Library of Congress accepted a proposal from AIATSIS and the National Library of Australia to recognise Austlang codes in MARC 21 and libraries around the world can now describe language materials in bibliographic, authority, and community information records with the right descriptive codes (bit.ly/2QhRSgr).

Highlight collection items in language, upgrade your '041' MARC language fields, and celebrate 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages (en.iyil2019.org) by implementing Austlang in your collection description.

Future focussed special libraries

Special libraries play a vital role in the global library landscape, often not bearing the word 'library' in their title they may be known as information services or research units and serve communities in a range of industries from government, commerce, arts, health, and science. Every

special library is likely to experience a service review at some point, often triggered by changes in the parent organisation.

Developed in consultation with special libraries in the Northern Territory and South Australia and endorsed by the ALIA Special Libraries Working Group in October 2018, *Guidelines for special libraries experiencing service reviews* (bit.ly/2FL47gL) is an invaluable resource for any special library preparing for the future and seeking ways to be proactive to strengthen messages about the role and value of the library and information service.

Negotiating privacy guidelines for ebook lending and digital content provision

Adopted in 2018, the ALIA library privacy guidelines help provide library and information professionals with guidance on negotiating third party digital licensing or agreements and the appropriate management and security practices in respect to library customers' personal information. The guidelines draw on Australian legislation, privacy principles, and the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights to help libraries negotiate robust privacy protections for their users (bit.ly/2RJ58w9).

Planning and delivering children's library services and programs

The IFLA Guidelines for Library Services for Children Aged 0–18 were revised in 2018 (bit.ly/2FW1JmC). The revised guidelines are aimed at practitioners, administrators, and educators in the library and information industry and can help inform decision makers and others involved in developing policies. The guidelines will also benefit organisations who support literacy and reading programs for children and their families. 

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