The role of the Libraries Australia Advisory Committee (LAAC) is to provide advice on strategic issues which influence:

- Delivery of the Libraries Australia service
- The broad direction of service development
- Changes in the library community which are likely to affect services

Libraries Australia members are encouraged to contact any of the LAAC members with their opinions of Libraries Australia. Matters are then raised at biannual meetings.

Key messages arising from meeting held

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NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA, CANBERRA

Transition to a hosted VDX environment

The Committee acknowledged a successful and seamless transition of the VDX system for Libraries Australia Document Delivery (LADD) to an externally hosted environment, completed in October 2015. Libraries Australia is now exploring externally hosted options for helpdesk support for LADD, to provide members with the most efficient and effective support of the VDX software for their resources sharing activities.

Alma and Libraries Australia

Progress continues to be made with 13 of 21 member library migrations to Ex Libris’ Alma system and publishing of their print holdings, to Libraries Australia. The number of transactions for the Alma project has involved over 9 million holdings records deleted from the Australian National Bibliographic Database (ANBD) and replaced with over 8 million refreshed holdings, comprising approximately 16.5% of the total ANBD holdings.

As Alma libraries move from their standalone ILL systems (such as VDX, Aleph, and Relais) to Alma ILL, Libraries Australia has been working to support these system migrations to ensure system interoperability with the LADD gateway. To date, 3 ISO ILL locations have successfully moved to Alma ILL via the LADD gateway, and a further 22 locations have contacted Libraries Australia to express their interest in moving to the Alma ILL system.
Libraries Australia review of services documentation

Libraries Australia is conducting an environmental scan to review the comprehensiveness of information provided to members, with a view to harmonising information through the various communication channels. The aim of the review is to improve Libraries Australia member understanding of the range of services available, enabling members to exploit the full value of their membership.

CAUL Bibliographical Utilities Project

The Committee considered the report arising from this project. Libraries Australia welcomes the opportunity to respond to any formal request by CAUL members that may be made as a result of this process.

Libraries Australia Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Input from the Libraries Australia Advisory Committee was sought on updating the Terms of Reference of the Committee. Consideration was given to membership structure, length of terms and confidentiality requirements.


The Committee reviewed feedback from the 2015 Libraries Australia Forum attendees, and considered content and format options to shape the event in 2016.

With thanks

Dr Alex Byrne will retire from the State Library of New South Wales at the conclusion of his term later in 2016, and will step down from the Libraries Australia Advisory Committee at this time. Anne-Marie Schwirtlich acknowledged Dr Byrne’s contribution to the Committee and the wider library community, and thanked him for his service.

The next Advisory Committee meeting will be held in conjunction with the Libraries Australia Forum, to be held in Canberra in late October/early November 2016.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA