

Statement on Teacher Librarian Qualifications

Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) and Australian School Library Association (ASLA)

Purpose

To ensure that school libraries are staffed by professionals that hold formal qualifications in school librarianship and classroom teaching in order to provide the professional expertise required for the complex roles of teacher librarians.

ALIA objects addressed

- ❖ To ensure the high standard of personnel engaged in information provision and foster their professional interests and aspirations.

ASLA objectives addressed

- ❖ Establish, review and maintain national standards and guidelines for school library resource services.
- ❖ Promote an understanding of the aims, needs and educational significance of school library resource services and teacher librarianship.
- ❖ Promote the continuing professional development of teacher librarians nationwide.
- ❖ Develop, write and publish materials which will promote the development of school library resource services and teacher librarianship.

Principle

Professional and support staff are essential for the effective functioning of the school library and the achievement of the school's learning and teaching goals.

Statement

As a member of a school's teaching team, the teacher librarian has a role in the planning, implementing and evaluating of educational policies, curricula, outcomes and programs, with particular reference to the development of students' information literacy.

Therefore, the services and activities provided in the school library need to be staffed by professionals who:

- ❖ hold the same level of education and preparation as classroom teachers
- ❖ hold formal qualifications in education, and librarianship or knowledge/information/technology management
- ❖ hold qualifications in librarianship which allow for eligibility for Associate (i.e. professional) membership of Australian Library and Information Association [ALIA]
- ❖ participate, regularly, in continuing professional learning

Related documents

International Federation of Library Associations, 2015. *IFLA School library guidelines*, 2nd ed, IFLA, The Hague.

Johnson, L., Adams Becker, S., Estrada, V., and Freeman, A. 2015, *NMC Horizon report: 2015 library edition*, The New Media Consortium, Austin, Texas.

Australian Library and Information Association, 2014, *ALIA AITSL Standards for teacher librarian practice*, Australian Library and Information Association, Canberra.

Australian School Library Association, 2014 *Evidence guide for teacher librarians in the highly accomplished career stage*, Australian School Library Association, Canberra, ACT.

Australian School Library Association, 2014, *Evidence guide for teacher librarians in the proficient stage*, Australian School Library Association, Canberra, ACT.

Statement on library and information services in schools

Statement on teacher librarians in Australia

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