

MILESTONES

50 YEARS OF ALIA SCHOOLS

The amount of work that flows through the busy group of ALIA Schools is considerable, as are their achievements. Over the past 50 years, ALIA has lobbied governments to improve equitable access to school library services for all Australian students. It has also commissioned or championed reports that have provided impetus for subsequent government action. This is a timeline of ALIA's initiatives, as well as significant events that have affected school libraries.

1964

The Library Association of Australia (LAA now ALIA) commissioned the Fenwick Report in 1964.



1966

Publication of the report by Fenwick titled *School and Children's Libraries in Australia: a report to the Children's Libraries Section of the Library Association of Australia*. The Fenwick report painted a grim picture and it provided the impetus for active political lobbying by LAA and other associations. The call was for the commonwealth government to provide financial support for libraries in educational institutions.

The LAA, Children's Libraries Section, and Committee on School Libraries published *Standards and objectives for school libraries: a guide to minimum standards and suitable objectives*, prepared by the Committee on School Libraries for the guidance of educational authorities, teachers, librarians and parents.

1967

As a result of the Fenwick Report, the LAA presented a plan of action to the prime minister that included the establishment of a relevant federal body and advisory committee, recruitment of an overseas advisor, establishment of demonstration school libraries, teacher librarian training, and a grants program to all schools.

School Libraries appear as a separate section in the LAA Handbook, albeit without any committee members named.

PRIOR TO 1967

Within the structure of the LAA school libraries were included with the Children's Libraries Section.

1968

School Libraries Section appears in the LAA Handbook and the first executive committee of President, Secretary and Honorary Treasurer is listed. All members of this committee were based in Victoria. Over time, other states formed LAA Schools Groups.

Further momentum for Commonwealth support was added when the Australian Library Promotion Council (ALPC) published Margaret Trask's *School Libraries: a report to the nation*, which commented on the glaring lack of school library funding in Australia.

1972

Research on the effects of the grants on school education and primary school libraries: *Primary School Libraries: a report to the nation* by David Cohen caused both major parties to promise in this election year to fund grants to primary schools.

The Interim Committee for the Australian Schools Commission, chaired by Professor Peter Karmel, was established in December by the Whitlam Labor government to examine the needs of schools and advise on school financing.

1969

The *States Grants Secondary School Libraries Act 1969* extended Australian Government capital assistance to finance library facilities in both government and non-government secondary schools. Capital assistance for schools was broadened in 1972 by the *States Grants (Capital Assistance) Act 1971-72*, which authorised \$20 million for capital expenditure on government primary and secondary schools. From 1973, these grants were extended to non-government schools.





1974

The Schools Commission was established in 1974 to administer school funding. Payments to the states, providing general recurrent grants, capital grants and grants for targeted programs, including school libraries, for government and non-government schools, were authorised on a triennial basis by means of annual States Grants (Schools Assistance) Acts. Funding was made available for training teacher librarians and for the establishment of a primary libraries program.

1976

The executive committee of the School Libraries Section was based in South Australia and remained there until 1977. After this time it returned to NSW until 1980, when national representation for schools became the responsibility of Western Australia. This system of rotating the responsibility for the national section around the country continued until 2001.

1978

Between 1978 and 1980 a national pilot study, the Australian Schools Catalogue Information Service (ASCIS), based on a model suggested by Down and Young and funded by the Commonwealth Schools Commission, was approved.



1982

Statement on Courses in Teacher Librarianship was published in the LAA Handbook. This is the first time that the LAA Handbook refers to teacher librarianship rather than school librarianship. It is an ongoing concern that courses meet the Association's standards.

1973

The report of the Interim Committee for the Australian Schools Commission, chaired by Professor Peter Karmel, marked a turning point for the funding of school education. Grants to primary and secondary school libraries were a major recommendation of the Karmel report and were designed to equalise resources available to all students.

The LAA Handbook lists Specialist Courses for School Librarianship offered at Melbourne College of Education and Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. LAA recommends that, wherever possible, students attend schools of librarianship in tertiary institutions recognised by the Association. Before this, training for school library staff involved completing LAA Registration Exams if an initial degree was held, to complete a librarianship course or do a short course provided by some state governments.

1975

The executive committee of the School Libraries Section was based in NSW. This reflected a system in which responsibility for national representation of school libraries within the LAA moved from state to state every one or two years.

1977

The Australian Schools Commission's standards, *Books and Beyond: Guidelines for Library Resource Facilities and Services*, was published.

Statement on Courses in School Librarianship was published in the LAA Handbook.

'The LAA Board of Examiners is aware of a proliferation of courses in school librarianship and has been concerned about the standards of such courses. It has received representation from the School Library Section which has been concerned about standards and about the lack of status of some teachers who have completed unaccredited courses. The Board recognises the need for librarians who work in schools to have qualifications in education as well as librarianship ... The only undergraduate courses in school librarianship so far recognized by the Association are four-year integrated courses at Canberra CAE and at Melbourne State College. The Association through the Board of Examiners thinks that courses for school librarians should meet the standards so that those who complete such courses may be admitted to full professional membership.'

1980

All states had central school library services.



1983

Following the successful pilot study, staff members were appointed to form the ASCIS Secretariat, which was established in Melbourne.

1988

The Schools Commission was abolished.

1993

Learning for the Future: developing information services in schools was published. This was a joint initiative of ALIA and ASLA and contained quantitative and qualitative benchmarks.

2001

Learning for the Future: developing information services in schools, second edition was published. Once again, ALIA and ASLA worked together and reviewed the national benchmarks for school libraries.

The ALIA Charter of Renewal took place in 2001 and ALIA Schools Victoria was formed in July 2001. Other states did not form ALIA Schools sections at this time, and the system of national group responsibilities passing from state to state ceased. ALIA Schools Victoria became the only body within ALIA dedicated to schools.

Statement on Library and Information Services (revised), an ALIA ASLA Joint Policy Statement, was published.

2004

Standards of professional excellence for teacher librarians, a joint initiative of ALIA Schools and ASLA, was published.



LATE 2008 EARLY 2009 2008

Building the Education Revolution was a response to the Global Financial Crisis. It had three elements, one of which was Primary Schools for the 21st Century. This program provided \$14.1 billion for Australian primary schools to build new facilities, such as libraries and multipurpose halls, or to upgrade existing facilities, by 31 March 2011. This money enabled 2,650 new school libraries to be built across government and non-government sectors.



1989

Statement on Library and Information Services, an ALIA and Australian School Library Association (ASLA) Joint Policy Statement, was published.

1994

These ALIA ASLA Joint Policy Statements were published:

- *Statement on Teacher Librarian Qualifications*
- *Statement on School Library Resource Provision*
- *Statement on Information Literacy*
- *Statement on School Library Resource Centre Funding*
- *Statement on Electronic Information Literacy*

2003

Statement on Teacher Librarians in Australia, an ALIA ASLA Joint Policy Statement, was published.



2007

ALIA Schools officially dropped the word 'Victoria' from its name in June 2007. ALIA Schools, with the executive committee based in Victoria, became the national section.

Manual for Developing Policies and Procedures in Australian School Library Resource Centres, a joint venture of ALIA Schools and VCTL, was published.

2009

These ALIA ASLA Joint Policy Statements were published:

- *Statement on Teacher Librarians in Australia*
- *Statement on Teacher Librarian Qualifications*
- *Statement on School Library Resource Provision*
- *Statement on Information Literacy*
- *Statement on Guided Inquiry and the Curriculum*
- *Statement on School Library Resource Centre Funding*
- *Statement on Library and Information Services*
- *Statement on School Libraries and Information Communication Technologies* (which replaced *Statement on Electronic Information Literacy*)
- *Statement on Resource Based Learning and the Curriculum*
- *Statement on Guided Inquiry and the Curriculum*



2010

Learning in a Changing World series (2010) commissioned by ALIA and ASLA, published by ACER Press. The series includes:

- O'Connell, Judy and Groom, Dean, *Connect, Communicate, Collaborate*
- O'Connell, Judy and Groom, Dean, *Virtual Worlds*
- La Marca, Susan, *Designing the Learning Environment*
- Todd, Ross, J, *Curriculum Integration*
- Wall, June and Ryan, Sandra, *Resourcing for Curriculum Innovation*

2013

Promoting Your School Library, a film of approximately five minutes' duration, was released.

2014

AITSL Standards for teacher librarian practice, a joint venture of ALIA Schools and Victorian Catholic Teacher Librarians (VCTL), was published.

2015

Three *ALIA PD Scheme Specialisation Skills Audit Checklist-Schools* were developed:

- *Teacher Librarian*
- *Librarian*
- *Library Technician*

2017

10 ways that libraries power high-performance schools was published.

Manual for Developing Policies and Procedures in Australian School Library Resource Centres (draft) 2nd revision, a joint venture of ALIA Schools and Victorian Catholic Teacher Librarians (VCTL), was published.

This report was compiled by Sandra Ryan, ALIA Schools member.

2011

School Libraries and Teacher Librarians in 21st-century Australia, a House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment report, was released.

2012

Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) Standards and teacher librarian practice, a joint venture of ALIA Schools and Victorian Catholic Teacher Librarians (VCTL), was published.

2012/2013

Illustrations of Practice, four films each of five minutes' duration, were produced with funding from an AITSL grant.

- *Selecting resources*
- *Engaging students in literature*
- *Information literacy*
- *Ancient Rome*

2016

What the Staff in Australia's Schools surveys tell us about teachers working in school libraries by Paul Weldon was published by Australian Council for Education Research and commissioned by ALIA and other school library associations.

These ALIA ASLA Joint Policy Statements were published:

- *Statement on Teacher Librarians in Australia*
- *Statement on Teacher Librarian Qualifications*
- *Statement on School Library Resource Provision*
- *Statement on Information Literacy (incorporates Statement on Guided Inquiry and the Curriculum)*
- *Statement on School Library Resource Centre Funding*
- *Statement on Library and Information Services*
- *Statement on School Libraries and Information Communication Technologies*

Statement on Resource-based Learning and the Curriculum was rescinded.