

ALIA ACSL and AMLA Joint Statement on School Libraries and Media Literacy

Purpose

To provide guidance on the development of effective policy and practice in relation to school libraries supporting media literate school communities.

Principle

Media literacy is a practice through which people critically engage with the media they consume, create, and evaluate. It supports active and informed participation in contemporary society by shaping how individuals interpret, produce and contribute to the media landscape.

Media literacy is encompassed by information literacy and intersects with digital literacy.

Qualified school library staff within a well-resourced school library play an expert role in leading a media literate school community, ensuring that learning is authentic and developmentally appropriate, evaluating and curating content, contributing to policy development, and ethically adapting to new practices as the media landscape evolves.

Statement

Media literate learners:

- reflect on their own media use and are curious about how media is created
- understand and critically analyse contemporary media
- use and create media content
- communicate and share media content responsibly and ethically.

Policies, guidelines and regulations which nurture a media literate school community will:

- ensure school libraries are staffed by qualified teacher librarians and other qualified library staff¹
- ensure school libraries are sufficiently resourced to purchase, promote and advise on the appropriate use of content to support the teaching and learning of media literacy
- be developed in consultation with library and information professionals who have media literacy expertise and contribute essential perspectives to planning and initiatives that support a school community of empowered and ethical digital citizens
- prioritise programs that strengthen school library capacity to meet the needs of groups requiring additional media literacy support or extension
- support ongoing professional learning for school library staff to remain informed of emerging trends, technologies, and pedagogical approaches in media literacy.

¹ <https://acsl.alia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/ALIA-ACSL-Statement-on-School-Library-Staffing-1.pdf>

To effectively embed media literacy in a school's teaching and learning program, school library staff will:

- support students and teaching staff to access ideas and high-quality resources that enhance teaching, learning, and wellbeing
- develop, evaluate, curate and manage collections and spaces that enable critical engagement with diverse media forms
- promote the library as a hub for media consumption, creation, and distribution
- support and facilitate collaborative design of programs that identify and integrate opportunities for media literacy development
- use the [*Media Literacy Framework for Australia*](#) to foster a shared language for media literacy that supports clear and consistent communication across the school community
- model and support the development of strategies to ensure the safe, critical and ethical use of media
- contribute to or lead discussions on assessment practices and procedures to ensure consistent and appropriately scaffolded development of media literacy skills across the school community
- engage in ongoing professional learning to maintain and develop an informed approach to media literacy, emerging issues, new technologies, and evidence-based practice
- encourage media literacy awareness among teaching staff, school leadership, and parents/carers, and provide professional learning as required.

Related documents and websites

[*ALIA ACSL Statement on School Libraries and Information Literacy \(2024\)*](#)

[*ALIA ACSL Statement on School Libraries and Digital Literacy \(2024\)*](#)

[*ALIA ACSL Statement on School Library Staffing \(2025\)*](#)

[*ALIA ACSL Statement on School Library Resource Provision \(2024\)*](#)

Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority (2025) [*Curriculum connection: Media consumers and creators*](#)

The Australian Media Literacy Alliance <https://medialiteracy.org.au/>

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