

ALC Library Policy on Intellectual Freedom

Purpose

This policy is intended to clarify the library's position on intellectual freedom and anti-censorship.

Organisational scope

All staff, students and alumni of ALC, ALC partners, members of the LCA as well as external members of the library.

Supporting principles

ALC Library is strongly committed to internationally accepted principles of Intellectual Freedom as articulated in the IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) Statement on Libraries and Intellectual Freedom (<https://www.ifla.org/publications/ifla-statement-on-libraries-and-intellectual-freedom>), and the ALIA (Australian Library and Information Association) Statement on free access to information (<http://alia.org.au/about-alia/policies-standards-and-guidelines/statement-free-access-information>).

Policy statement

The ALC Library's acquisition and retention of information resources reflects the core business of the institution, which is the preparation of people for service in various areas of Christian ministry, and Christian education. This applies to both the library's primary role of underpinning the teaching, learning and research needs of ALC staff and students, and its secondary role of supporting the broader community of the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA). Materials held by the library represent a wide variety of opinions and different viewpoints, and acquisition processes are consistent with internationally accepted principles of intellectual freedom and access to information, as detailed in statements by IFLA and ALIA. Material is not censored in any way by the library administration, but is selected according to its relevance to ALC's teaching, learning and research programs, in collaboration with the academic teaching team, and the University of Divinity Library. The inclusion of content does not imply the endorsement of the content by the Library or ALC, but is acquired to provide a collection of depth and breadth, imperative to academic enquiry. A key principle is that individual works are considered separate from the lives of authors. Therefore, no information resources are censored or removed as a consequence of disapproval of an author's alleged political, social, moral or other opinions or activities.

Responsibility

Any queries regarding the inclusion of materials can be made in writing to the Director of Library Services.

Supporting procedures

- Liaison with members of the academic teaching team
- Liaison with the Dean and Associate Dean of Research
- Liaison with the Academic Committee