LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND: ACTION PLAN, 2013 - 2016

MISSION STATEMENT:

To promote and support high standards of librarianship and information management across all sectors in Ireland

PROMOTION

ROLE

To maintain the professional standing of library and information professionals by

a. Advising appropriate Government Departments on the professional status of library and information management
b. Achieving and maintaining agreements on mutual recognition of qualifications (e.g. CILIP, A.L.A.)
c. Advising the Department of Education and Skills and appropriate educational institutions on the range of courses and their content, in terms of recognition for professional qualification and overall relevancy of course content to maintain standards - particularly in relation to core competencies

Action 1: Clarify the core competencies common across the diversity of professional practice [Professional Standards Committee; Completion Autumn 2013]

Action 2: Maintain a membership register of qualified library and information professionals [Professional Standards Committee; Completion Autumn 2013]

Action 3: Maintain and regularly update reliable public information on the status of the profession and routes to qualification [Professional Standards Committee; Completion Autumn 2013]

Action 4: Continue to accredit appropriate courses leading to a professional qualification [Professional Standards Committee; Completion Summer 2014]

Action 5: Explore whether membership of the Association could be developed into a prerequisite for professional practice [Professional Standards Committee; Completion TBC]

ADVOCACY

To represent the interests of the Association and the profession to government, other organisations, the community and stakeholders generally by

a. Promoting the relevance of and benefits to be gained from effective library and information services
b. Increasing understanding and visibility of the core competencies common across the diversity of professional practice

c. Lobbying on short-term and long-term issues e.g. development of library and information services and facilities, recognition for the role and value of professional library and information services within government policy areas such as the smart economy, knowledge society, lifelong learning (To be driven by Motions agreed at the Association AGM)

Action 6: Monitor the scale and penetration of library and information services, in all sectors, including the size of the employment pool [Council; Completion Spring 2014]

Action 7: Use existing campaigns across all sectors (e.g. LIW, CBF) to explain and promote the contribution and value of library and information services [Council; Review Spring 2014]

COLLABORATION

To promote collaboration, cooperation and shared action at international, national and local levels (depending on topic) by

a. *Internationally:* Maintaining links with other associations and relevant bodies, especially EU based
b. *Nationally:* Supporting cooperative and collaborative movements that extend access to resources e.g. digitisation, multi-institutional projects
c. *Nationally and Locally:* Forging inter-agency partnerships with other relevant agencies – 'library schools', other educational institutions, cultural tourism bodies

Action 8: Identify and actively seek opportunities for such collaboration [Council; Completion Spring 2014]

Action 9: Identify and promote examples of best practice [Council; Completion Spring 2014]

ACCESS

To promote the free flow of information and ideas in the interest of all Irish people and a thriving culture, economy and democracy by

a. Expressing a position and seeking to influence free flow issues e.g. free access to services, access to COMS, copyright and intellectual property rights

Action 10: Identify and promote examples of best practice nationally and internationally [Council; Completion Spring 2014]

SUPPORT

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To support the career development of people engaged in library and information services and to foster their professional interests and aspirations by

a. Developing and leading a relevant and comprehensive CPD programme both internally driven (e.g. ALAI, FLAI, seminars and conferences) and developed collaboratively (e.g. with 'library schools' and other providers) and encouraging a cross-sectoral approach in sharing knowledge, expertise and experience

Action 11: Establish and apply an accreditation/certification mechanism for CPD [CPD Committee; Completion Spring 2014]

Action 12: Develop and provide a mentoring support service for Library and Information professionals e.g. those unemployed or underemployed, transferring across sectors, fast-tracking for added managerial or technical skills [CPD Committee; Completion TBC]

ASSOCIATION MATTERS

To encourage library and information professionals to contribute to the improvement of their services through support and membership of the Association by

a. Increasing membership
b. Reviewing internal operations and processes

Action 13: Hold a membership drive [i] lapsed, [ii] new personal, [iii] institutional [Administration Committee; Completion Winter 2013]

Action 14: Develop and deliver a Communications Plan [Communications Committee; Completion Autumn 2013]

Action 15: Identify and promote mechanisms that facilitate routes to more engagement for members [Council; Completion Autumn 2013]

Action 16: Investigate opportunities for increased fundraising and income generation [Administration Committee; Completion Winter 2013]

[Agreed by Council 14th February 2013]