CAUL Mission

To support CAUL members in the achievement of their objectives, especially the provision of access to and training in the use of scholarly information, leadership in information management and contribution to the university experience.

In pursuit of this mission CAUL develops a national perspective on issues relevant to university libraries, provides a forum for discussion and collaboration and works to promote common interests.

Values

- Collaboration within and across sectors
- Commitment to resource sharing
- Commitment to access to information, ideas and creative works without censorship
- Respect for the intellectual and creative endeavours of others
- Equitable access to services and resources
- Innovation in the application of new technologies and service models
- Excellence in operational and service delivery
- Openness, responsiveness and customer focus.

Goals

The Strategic Plan charts how CAUL will meet its objectives. It outlines CAUL’s goals:

- To provide leadership in relevant higher education developments and information policy, and communicate activities to key stakeholders
- To facilitate the members’ role in supporting and maximising learning and teaching outcomes and contributing positively to the student experience
- To facilitate the members’ role in supporting and maximising research outcomes
- To maximise access to information resources and facilitate libraries’ wider scholarly communication and information management roles
- To promote continuous improvement and best practice in pursuit of internationally recognised high quality library services and operations.

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CAUL has a unique and important perspective on information, research and education and should contribute to national policy and planning in these areas.

CAUL’s ability to project a clear perspective on key issues of national information policy and resources and communicate the benefits of collaborative and cooperative action undertaken by CAUL and its members is vital to the continued visibility, relevance and importance of university libraries.

University libraries make a major contribution to learning and teaching through the provision of facilities, service, resources and skills development programs, both physical and virtual.

Physical facilities have undergone major transformations in response to changes in teaching and technology and online, location-independent services have emerged as an alternative method of service and resource provision.

Developments in flexible learning are forging stronger collaboration between libraries, IT departments, faculties and teaching and learning units.

University libraries are actively engaged in the Government’s research agenda, particularly through eResearch, institutional repositories and research training.

CAUL will continue to respond to emerging opportunities to support and maximise research outcomes and develop strong relationships with research bodies in Australia and overseas.

University libraries’ main goal continues to be the provision of access to scholarly information. CAUL members manage substantial budgets for information resources and depend on suppliers of scholarly information to meet the research and teaching needs of their institutions.

CEIRC is CAUL’s key program for managing affairs with suppliers of electronic information resources. Members have interests in the transformation of scholarly communications and how information can be used in research, teaching and resource sharing. These interests are met through activities in the cooperative acquisition of resources, resource sharing and copyright. CAUL must monitor, lead developments and endeavour to achieve optimal outcomes for members.

Changes in information and higher education are leading to transformations in the ways universities and university libraries operate and deliver services. Traditional performance measures do not capture new and emerging services.

A major challenge is to develop a new language to demonstrate the value of libraries and identify new performance measures that enable meaningful and relevant benchmarking.