

ISCA, THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCE:
AN ATTEMPT TO FIND GLOBAL SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL PROBLEMS

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The International Scholarly Communications Alliance is an international grouping of national research library associations who want to make a difference to the scholarly communications debate. This paper describes the birth of the Alliance, the reasons why it has been formed, and its workplan for the future.

abstract: The initial members of the International Scholarly Communications Alliance (ISCA) are ANUL (Association of Japanese National University Libraries), ARL (Association of Research Libraries), CARL (Canadian Association of Research Libraries), CAUL (Council of Australian University Librarians), CURL (Consortium of University Research Libraries), CONZUL (Council of New Zealand University Librarians) and LIBER (Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche).

The Alliance is an international grouping of national research library organisations who wish to contribute to the global scholarly communications debate.

The paper will describe the birth of the Alliance and the reasons why it exists. Scholarly Communication issues are global issues and no one organisation or country can solve them on their own. The Alliance was born because its founding members agreed that an international focus was needed to harness their efforts to effect change in the scholarly communications process.

The objectives of the Alliance are:

- to act as a catalyst for change in scholarly communication issues in member institutions
- to work collaboratively and enter into dialogue with other organisations to further shared aims in this area
- to undertake or sponsor necessary research on relevant issues
- to represent the views of member organisations at an international level
- to mount advocacy campaigns in member countries to engage academics and senior administrators in scholarly communications issues

The paper will look at ways these objectives can be met:

- Setting up working parties or consultations
- Engaging with academics to work in partnership
- Identifying and disseminating good practice
- Arranging seminars and conferences
- Constructing a relevant website and e-mail lists

The paper will identify the governance issues involved in managing such a global grouping of research library organisations. It will also identify what the work plan of this new grouping should be. Topics which the Alliance is considering are:

- The globalisation of the SPARC brand, following the creation of SPARC Europe

- Sharing details of arrangements for IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) in members' institutions
 - An analysis of the impact of the Public Library of Science campaign in scholarly communications developments, particularly on academic perceptions of e-publishing
 - The importance of the Open Archive Initiative and the role that libraries can play in creating change
 - Working on new models with University and Learned Society publishers
 - Sharing and constructing joint advocacy materials
- The paper will end with an assessment of the impact the Alliance has made in its first year and point to likely development lines for the future.