TIK
TRUTH INTEGRITY KNOWLEDGE

10 WAYS library and information
professionals promote truth, integrity and knowledge

1

TRUSTED PROFESSIONALS

Librarians have always been trusted professionals and this is still the case. Everyone studying for a library qualification learns about the profession's values and ethics. When people join ALIA, they are confirming their commitment to promoting the free flow of information and ideas in the interest of all Australians.

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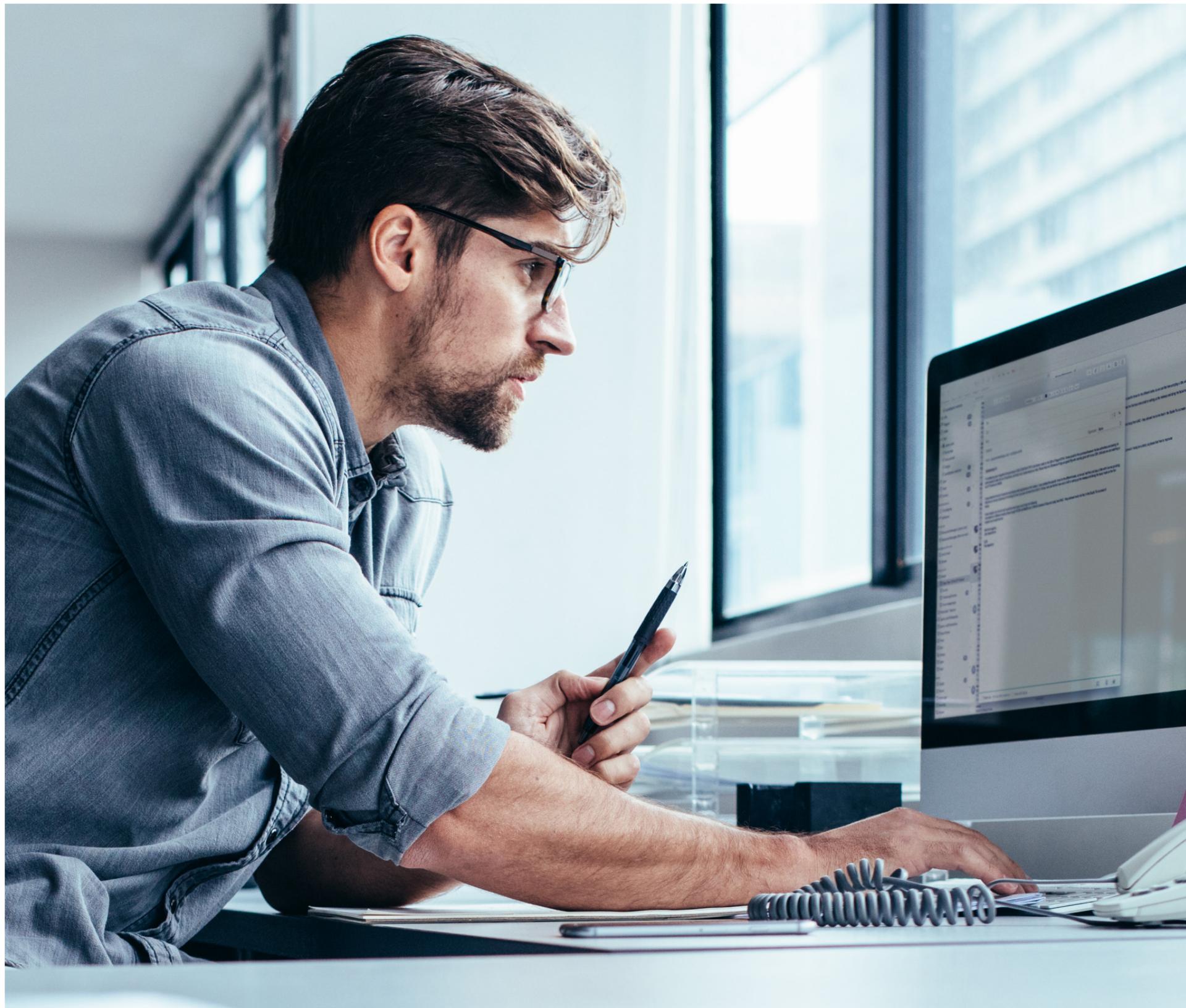
2

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

We help ensure that people have access to information, without bias or censorship. Some libraries use internet filters to support cybersafe experiences for children, but we are against high level government restrictions on internet content and have campaigned successfully against this over the last decade. We also help people to navigate government Freedom of Information request processes.

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3

EVIDENCE-BASED

We identify and evaluate information sources which will help people reach their own, well-informed decisions about critical issues. We consider the source, the credibility of the author, the wider context and the supporting evidence, in order to authenticate information.

4

DIGITAL EXPERTISE AND INCLUSION

Library and information professionals know how to use the best aspects of technology to find authoritative information, and how to avoid the pitfalls. We can explain to library users how algorithms, cookies and other devices influence search results and help advertisers target potential buyers.

In an increasingly online world, people can be left behind if they can't afford new technologies, don't have the connectivity, or lack the skills. Library staff are at the frontline of initiatives to enable all Australians to become digitally included and to participate in the activities online – not least, engaging with egovernment.

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INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

Librarians work respectfully with Indigenous knowledge – the stories, artefacts, images, artworks and documents that form collections of first nations' materials. We seek permission for access, consult with community Elders and use established protocols to ensure that knowledge is handled sensitively and appropriately.

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FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

We believe in free speech and freedom of expression. To quote the IFLA principles of freedom of expression and good librarianship[1]: "Libraries contribute to the development and maintenance of intellectual freedom and help to safeguard basic democratic values and universal civil rights".

[1] https://www.ifla.org/faife/mission

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EQUITY

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We are working to ensure that any and everyone in Australia can join a library, borrow books, use PCs, seek the expert help of library staff and source the information they need. There are still some barriers to library membership, for example fines for overdue books and the need to have a permanent address to register, but these have been removed in some locations and are being tackled in others.

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PRIVACY

Libraries promote the right to privacy in the digital age. We are concerned about excessive data collection, hacking and harvesting of personal information, for political and commercial gain. At the same time, we support aggregated data, stripped of personal identifiers, being made available to researchers for social benefits – for example, in the health sector.

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OPEN ACCESS

We support the principle of open access, especially for government-funded research. Open access enables others to reuse data, building on the work of others and advancing the world's knowledge at a faster rate than has been possible before. Quality metadata, applied by librarians, makes this data more easily discoverable.

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COLLABORATION

Librarianship is an ethical profession and one that thrives on partnerships, collaboration and sharing. We work with government, academia, corporate and civil society organisations as a force for good. This makes libraries a natural partner in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals identified in the UN 2030 Agenda.

alia.org.au