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# Building professional relationships with the International Librarians Network

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# Building professional relationships with the International Librarians Network

## **Abstract**

What we're going to talk about: 1. Why international professional networks are valuable 2. The International Librarians Network - what it is and how it works 3. How to build your own international professional network

## **Keywords**

relationships, international, network, professional, librarians, building

## **Disciplines**

Arts and Humanities | Social and Behavioral Sciences

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# INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIANS NETWORK

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Amy Barker

Alyson Dalby

Kate Byrne

*Program Coordinators, International Librarians Network*

# Who are we?

Alyson Dalby



Amy Barker



Kate Byrne



Clare McKenzie



Currently  
on holiday  
in England

# What we're going to talk about

1. Why international professional networks are valuable
2. The International Librarians Network – what it is and how it works
3. How to build your own international professional network

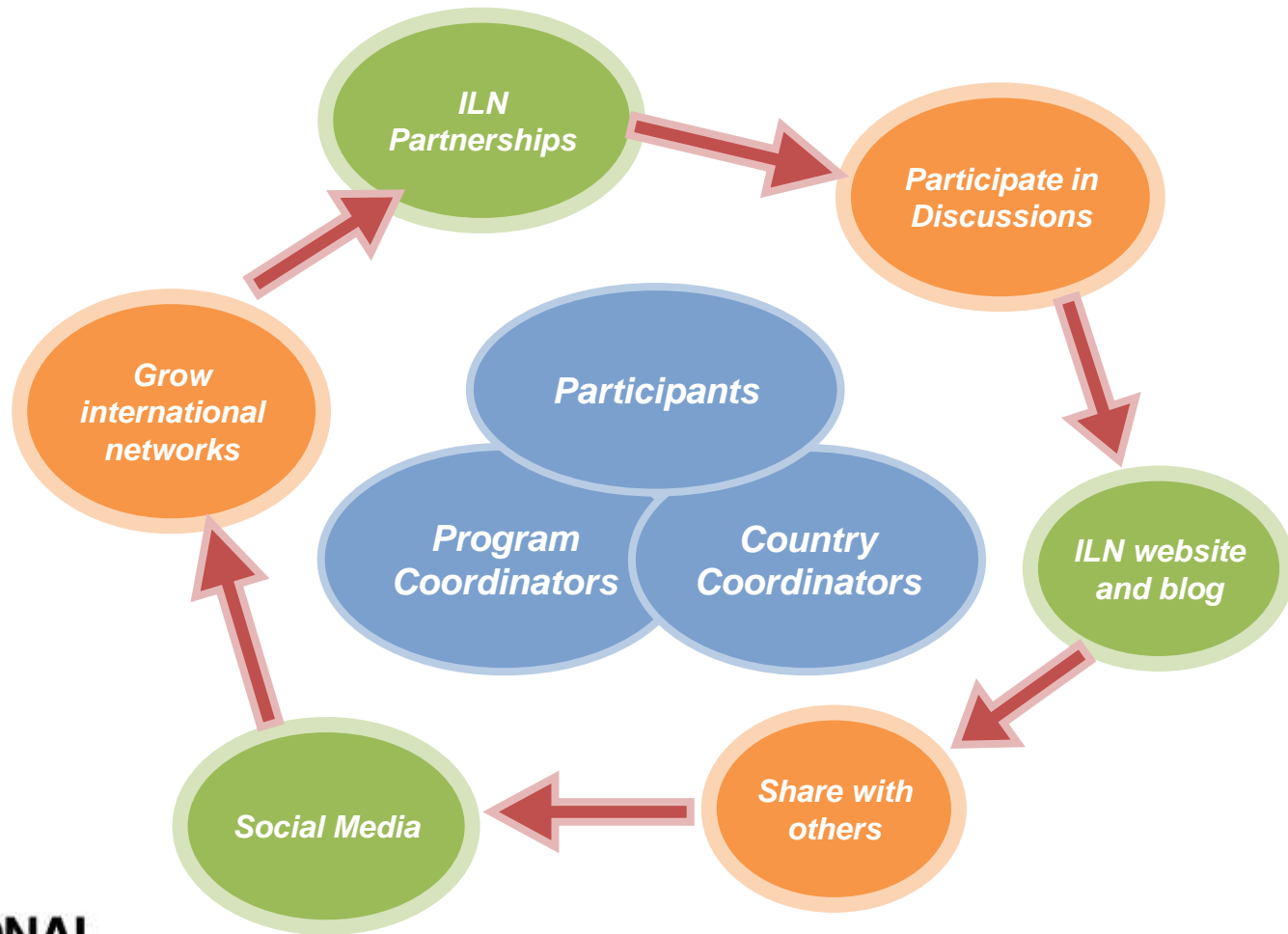
# Why develop an international network?

**INTERNATIONAL  
LIBRARIANS  
NETWORK**

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# The International Librarians Network



# “What impact does the ILN have on your professional activities?”

- Develops an international perspective
- Generates wider professional awareness
- Brought new ideas
- Increased professional confidence and motivation
- Provided general professional development
- Networking benefits
- Developed a particular skill



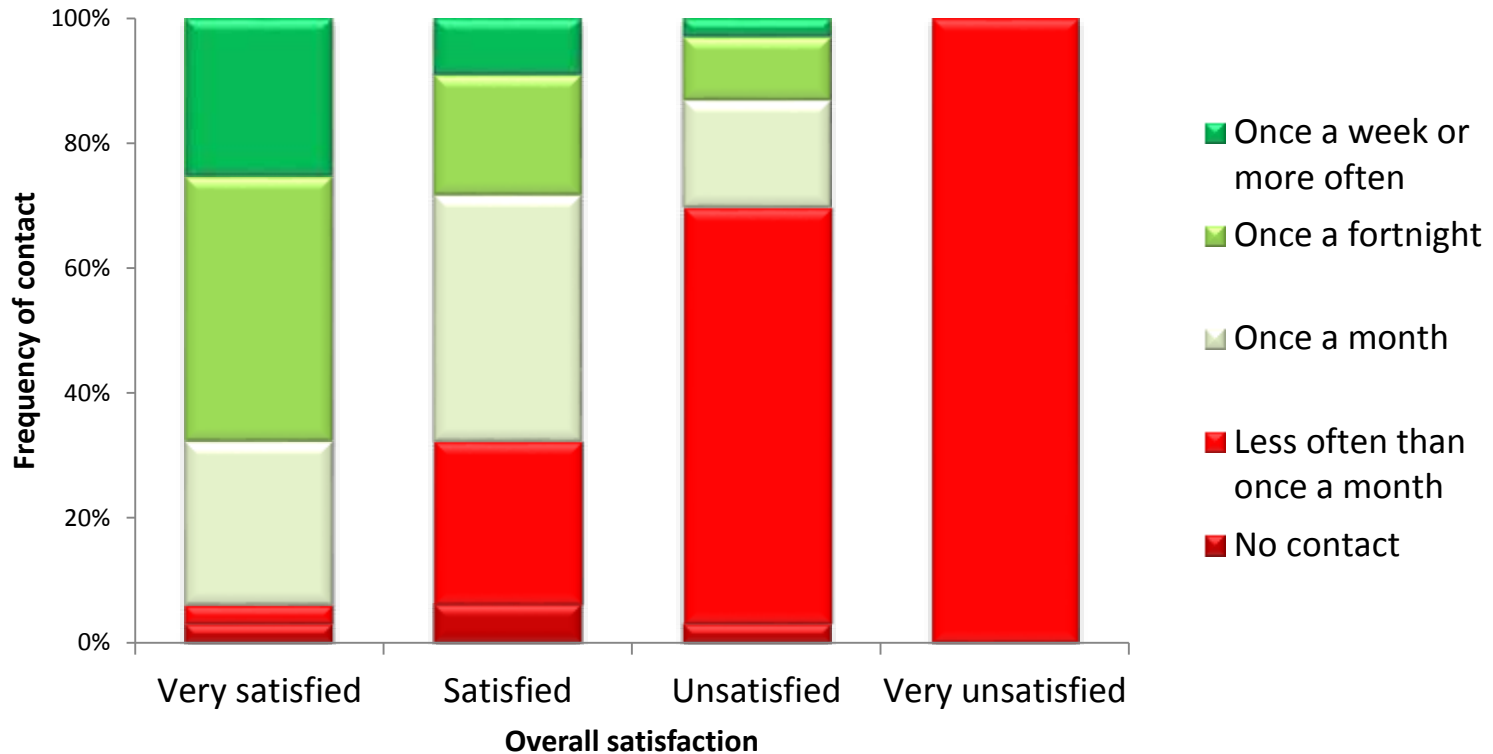
# What makes the ILN work?

We provide a structure on which to build:

- Matching partners
- Discussion topics
- Intervention when things go wrong
- Regular communication

# What works: frequent contact

Relationship between satisfaction and frequency of contact



End dates allow  
for a graceful exit



# What doesn't work: lessons learned

- Some discussion topics fall flat
- Overcoming cultural differences requires patience and tolerance
- A closed mind inhibits conversation

# The formula

Step 1: Find the right person (or people!)

Step 2: Find common ground

Step 3: Keep it professional

# INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIANS NETWORK

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