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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
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INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIANS NETWORK

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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?
The International Librarians Network

- ILN Partnerships
- Participate in Discussions
- ILN website and blog
- Grow international networks
- Social Media
- Share with others
- Participants
  - Program Coordinators
  - Country Coordinators

Participate in Discussions
Grow international networks
Share with others
Social Media
ILN website and blog
“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

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Unsatisfied
- Very unsatisfied

Frequency of contact:
- Once a week or more often
- Once a fortnight
- Once a month
- Less often than once a month
- No 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