

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

AND

THE SCOTTISH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

.JANUARY 1995

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BACKGROUND

1. The Library Association was established in 1877 and received its Royal Charter in 1898.
2. The Scottish Library Association was established in 1908.
3. An act of union was signed by The Library Association and the Scottish Library Association at the LA Conference and Council at Cambridge on 26 September 1930.
4. The Act of union came into force on 1st January 1931 and provided for the SLA to become a branch of the LA 'with the same autonomy in its own affairs as the other recently affiliated bodies' (*LA Record*, January 1931). The text of the agreement appears as an appendix to this draft agreement.

CURRENT POSITION

5. The LA and the SLA both recognise that many developments have taken place which render several provisions of the 1931 agreement obsolete and that a new agreement is needed to reflect and formalise these developments.

NEW AGREEMENT

6. The Library Association Council,
in the interests of its members in Scotland and in the rest of the United Kingdom,
in recognition that democratic control and efficient service delivery are best achieved by decision making at appropriate levels by a financially secure organisation, and
in recognition of the contribution to be made by an effective Scottish Library Association to a strong United Kingdom Association,

RESOLVES that:

- a) Subject to the provisions of the Royal Charter granted to The Library Association in 1898 and supplemented in 1986 and, subject to any requirements arising from the Association's charitable status, the Council of the Scottish Library

Association will be responsible for all policy, financial and operational matters relating to the internal affairs of the Scottish Library Association and for those professional issues solely affecting the operation, development and promotion of library and information services in Scotland.

- b) The Scottish Library Association will be responsible for the delivery to Library Association members resident in Scotland of all those functions and services which, by virtue of the legal, constitutional, cultural, social, political and governmental structures are agreed by the Council of The Library Association and the Council of The Scottish Library Association to require a distinctive or separate Scottish approach.
- c) An important role of the Scottish Library Association is to fulfil the functions of a branch of the LA in respect of LA members whose address is in Scotland.
- d) Those policies, functions and services which are agreed should be delivered on a United Kingdom basis (for example, the maintenance of the professional register) will continue to be discharged by The Library Association.
- e) Nothing in this resolution shall restrict the access of Library Association members in Scotland to full participation in professional activities on a United Kingdom basis, to membership of Library Association groups, or to election to office within the Library Association.
- f) To help ensure the effective operation of both Associations coordination of policies and to help ensure that the profession in Scotland continues to contribute fully to professional life within the United Kingdom, there will be meetings held no less frequently than twice-yearly between appropriate members and officials of both Associations to discuss affairs of common interest and to secure a corporate approach to issues.
- g) This agreement will be subject to review from time to time by the Councils of the LA and the SLA.