

AMICAL CONSORTIUM

Membership Agreement *Full Members*

AMICAL is a consortium of international colleges and universities outside of the United States either offering a program of education on the American model or supporting such programs. The signatory institutions recognize their similarity of mission and the need to develop information resources strategically in order to manage growth and increasing expectations cost-effectively. Accordingly these institutions have agreed to create the American International Consortium of Academic Libraries (AMICAL) in order to implement collaborative projects in information resources and learning technologies that support curricular development, teaching, and learning on our campuses.

Mission:

AMICAL is an international consortium of American-model, liberal arts institutions of higher learning. Our mission is to advance learning, teaching and research through the collaborative development of library and information services and curricular resources at member institutions. AMICAL is committed to sharing information and technologies across national and linguistic borders, using English as the primary language for consortial work.

Membership Responsibilities:

As a member, each institution agrees to the following:

1. To share resources and expertise;
2. To appoint an on-campus person to represent the institution; this person agrees to receive the consortium's e-mail announcements and to disseminate AMICAL-related information, as appropriate, within the institution;
3. To fund the attendance at annual conferences of at least one staff member from the library, information/instructional technology department, or the faculty; whenever the consortium can offer outside funding, it will request that institutions send teams of three.
4. To pay annual dues and any other financial obligations in a timely manner;
5. To respect the integrity and private nature of any information disseminated through AMICAL surveys, documents, and communications;
6. To be an active participant in the consortium;
7. To sign the Membership Agreement.

Membership Criteria:

Eligibility for invitation for membership in AMICAL includes the following:

1. The institution is a regular member of AAICU (see: <http://aaicu.org/swift.jsp?CMCCode=0403>)
2. The institution offers a Bachelor's (or higher level) degree program;
3. The institution supports within its programs a liberal arts curriculum;
4. The institution is accredited by a North American accrediting agency;
5. The institution is located outside the United States and is formally licensed to operate in its home country.

Areas of AMICAL collaboration:

1. Promoting the active cooperation of librarians, faculty and information/instructional technology professionals in developing tools for student learning.
2. Furthering our institutional missions by creating and sharing tools for benchmarking and best practices.
3. Providing a forum for the exchange of information on curriculum, library, and information/instructional technology development amongst member institutions.
4. Maximizing access to resources through library and IT cooperation, including collective negotiation of services, mutually beneficial programs, etc.
5. Creating opportunities for shared staff and faculty development.
6. Pursuing areas of mutual interest – database licensing, interlibrary loan arrangements, etc.

Host Institution:

One member institution of AMICAL will serve as the host institution for AMICAL. This institution will serve as the organization's financial agent and as its primary mailing address. The host institution is authorized to enter into contractual agreements on behalf of the consortium whenever it is requested to do so by the AMICAL governing body, the Council of Members.

Maintenance of Local Operations:

Each AMICAL member agrees to maintain its library and information technology operations at levels appropriate for the size, scope and mission of the institution. Membership in AMICAL shall not be viewed as an opportunity by a member institution to reduce appropriate institutional support.

Financial Obligations:

1. Payment of annual dues (and honoring of cost-bearing commitments above) is required for membership; dues will be determined using a formula recognizing the differences in resources within AMICAL's membership.
2. Institutional financial participation for the implementation of projects will be solicited only from those institutions that choose to participate in them. The allocation of such costs will be approved by the elected Coordinating Committee.
3. Any additional funding required for consortial operations must be approved by the collective membership.

Independence of Members:

Membership in AMICAL does not put any restrictions on the right of member institutions to enter into any other agreements or relationships with other institutions, agencies, vendors, or entities. Programs and activities of AMICAL are subordinate to and may not contradict any local policies and practices of member institutions.

Operational Guidelines:

The ongoing operations of AMICAL shall be governed by its Operational Guidelines document.

Signed by:

_____ *President* _____ *Please print name*

_____ *Head Librarian* _____ *Please print name*

Institution: _____

Date: _____

The document is to be signed by the President *and* the person responsible for overseeing the Library – in this way, it is clear who will be the lead person on each campus, after the President has committed the institution.

*This document drafted 11 November 2006; adopted by AMICAL 1 December 2006.
Amended 28 May 2007.
Amended 26 May 2008.*