



THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

CODE OF ETHICS

Adopted at the Annual General Meeting, 8th March, 2007

The Library Association of Ireland has adopted this Code of Ethics for its members

- To provide guidance to members of the Association, and to help them make informed ethical decisions;
- To assist new members of the profession to become acquainted with the values of the profession;
- To assure the users of library and information services that their rights are respected by professional librarians and those engaged in the profession of librarianship¹;
- To assure society at large that professional librarians in Ireland place considerations of the common good at the centre of their professional activities.

All members of the Library Association of Ireland undertake to abide by the ***Code of Ethics***

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

1. We facilitate access to a wide range of published material in many media, including access to the internet.
2. We uphold the right of individuals to hold ideas and express opinions.
3. We provide as wide a range of material as is practicable.
4. We resist acts of censorship except those which are required by current legislation.
5. We uphold the cultural, social and economic rights of individuals and society.

¹ In article 24(i) (b), the term “profession of librarianship” is deemed to include all Librarians, Information Specialists and Library Assistants in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, including the staff of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, and members of the teaching staff of the Department of Librarianship and Information Studies of University College Dublin and Queen’s University Belfast

PRIVACY

1. We protect the confidentiality of all users of library and information services.
2. We protect the privacy of all identifying personal data which relate to individual users e.g., name, address, telephone numbers, email address.
3. We protect the privacy of all loan transaction records.
4. We ensure that any data gathered through loan transactions on reading interests, usage etc. are only used for research and statistical purposes, and in a manner which respects the privacy of users.
5. We ensure that only personnel authorized by the library have access to computerized records holding user or borrower information

The above are subject to all legal requirements

PROFESSIONALISM

1. We promote the highest standards of librarianship.
2. We strive for the highest personal professional standards and knowledge.
3. We promote continuing professional development.
4. We ensure that all services offered by the library are provided in an egalitarian manner, and resist unfair discrimination against any group or section of the community.
5. We act with integrity, objectivity and impartiality in our dealings with users of our services and with colleagues.
6. We are objective and impartial in dealing with suppliers of goods and services to library institutions.
7. We inform employers of any possible conflict of interest in dealings with users or suppliers.
8. We select materials - books and non-book - based on best professional practice to meet the needs of users, rather than on personal preference.
9. We ensure that information provided to a user is the latest available (where quality up-to-date information is essential).
10. We ensure that users are directed to other library and information services if material they require is unavailable locally.

Prepared by the European and International Affairs Committee of the Library Association of Ireland and adopted at the Annual General Meeting of 8th March, 2007.

