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Code of Ethics for Thai Library Professionals

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CODE OF ETHICS FOR THAI LIBRARY PROFESSIONALS

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PREAMBLE

The library is a highly respected and important institution that imparts knowledge to society. In order to further develop the library system, to promote firm ethical standards, and to evoke the recognition of society, the Thai Library Association under the Royal Patronage of H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn herewith sets forth the following Code of Ethics to be strictly observed by the library professional.

SECTION I: ETHICS TOWARDS USERS

In order to perpetuate the good relationship between the library and its users, the librarian must:

1. Give highest priority to convenient services for users;
2. Optimize professional knowledge, skills and competencies for the benefits of library users;
3. Provide equitable library access and services without discrimination, to users of all status, nationality and race.

SECTION II: ETHICS TOWARDS THE PROFESSION

In order to ensure the responsibility for the development of the profession, to promote excellence among library professionals, the librarian must:

1. Avoid any kind of action which will damage the reputation of the profession;
2. Commit on life long learning and knowledge development in order to meet professional standards, and always seek out the opportunity to develop skills and new approaches to vitalize library services;
3. Cooperate in performing functions to ensure quality and development of the profession;
4. Avoid ambition to increase wealth and personal financial status; such ambition may decrease the services and damage the profession.

SECTION III: ETHICS TOWARDS THE COLLEAGUES

In order to strengthen the co-operation among library professionals, and to increase good relationship with colleagues and other members of the profession; the librarian must :

1. Recognize and respect the colleagues at all levels of education and positions.
2. Recognize and respect resolutions of the meetings;
3. Maintain and seek alliances with other library staff and other professional colleagues;
4. As a supervisor, treat those under the supervision with fairness and good faith; advocate no prejudice in the promotion or punishment of staff members.

SECTION IV: ETHICS TOWARDS THE ORGANIZATION

The Library is an integral part of the organization or the institution which should be upheld and given due respect, therefore, the librarian must:

1. Maintain the reputation and avoid any avoid that might lower the reputation of the organization in which the library operates;
2. Co-operate and perform functions in response to the policies and for the progress of the organization as a whole;
3. Avoid actions in which personal interest might be served to financial benefits gained at the expense of the organization.

SECTION V: ETHICS TOWARDS THE SOCIETY

In order to affirm the library status and roles in providing information for the advancement of the society, the librarian must:

1. Take a strong leadership role and responsibility in the community and the nation;
2. Devote efforts for the benefit of the community without interfering with professional duties;
3. Make efforts to maintain social stability and security.

Note : The Code of Ethics was proclaimed on 30 April 1978. The proclamation ceremony took place at the auditorium of the Department of Public Relations, Prime Minister's office, presided over by Mr.Kasem Suwanneakul, the former Minister of University Affairs.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Thai Library Association has been growing slowly but with steady and firmly progress to fulfill its role as a professional organization for professional development, Provision of training programs, library science publications, children books, library groups and other projects is evidence of thoughtfully prepared movement to propel and continue the growth of libraries and librarianship in Thailand toward a brighter future.

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