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Code of ethics

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Hong Kong Library Association (HKLA)

Code of Ethics

Adopted in 1995.

The purpose of this Code is to set out guidelines to ethical conduct expected of library and information personnel in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Library Association believes in freedom of enquiry, thought and expression and in the free, uncensored flow of information. It is a fundamental principle that the primary duty of library and information personnel is to facilitate access to information to meet the requirements of their clients.

- Library and information personnel should aim to provide well-organized collections and an accurate, unbiased service regardless of their personal beliefs.
- Library and information personnel should protect and promote the rights of every client to have free and equal access to sources of information without discrimination.
- Library and information personnel should respect a client's privacy and the confidentiality of the library-client relationship.
- Library and information personnel should strive for professional excellence by continually updating and enhancing their knowledge and skills.
- Library and information personnel should maintain high standards of professional integrity and should not engage in conduct which could prejudice the standing of their profession. Nor should they advance their own personal interests at the expense of their employers, colleagues or user communities.