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Code of Professional Ethics for Librarians

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Item Type	Preprint
Authors	Latvian Librarians Associationa (LLA)
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Download date	2026-09-24 03:23:41
Link to Item	http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/212147

Published on *National Library of Latvia* (<http://www.lnb.lv>)

[Home](#) > Code of professional ethics for librarians

Code of professional ethics for librarians

The aim of this code is to attest the library profession's ideals, principles and affirmations as regards the development of a society that is based on democracy and the observance of human rights.

With this code, librarians in Latvia express their readiness to guarantee to respect the rights of each person, to defend intellectual freedom, to preserve human memory collections, to guarantee freedom of information in the positive development of individuals and of society.

This code of ethics comprises the recommended standards that apply to all representatives of the library profession. It is possible to use the code for discussing problems of an ethical nature and for finding specific solution for problems that may arise in library society in Latvia.

1. Librarians respect their profession and recognise its value and necessity in the process of developing society.
2. By their professional actions and behaviour, librarians facilitate the development of their profession and raise its prestige in society.
3. Librarians show loyalty to, and trust in the library, its policies and principles of work.
4. Librarians do not use the information and technical resources that are available to them for selfish purposes.
5. Librarians support and actively participate in professional organisations and associations.
6. Librarians take part in improving professional work that is aimed at professional development.
7. Librarians take care of perfecting those personal qualities which promote the development of their personality and professional work.
8. At work librarians observe generally accepted ethical and aesthetic norms.
9. Librarians are custodians of the information resources in their libraries and should facilitate their active use.
10. Librarians guarantee information retrieval and delivery, organising these activities in a rational way and working objectively and professionally.
11. Librarians select and offer information without censorship of information sources, without discrimination as to religion, politics, sex, social standing, sexual orientation or race, bearing in mind the mission, aims, tasks and collection development policy of their library.
12. Librarians support and facilitate freedom of expression and freedom of dissemination and receipt of information.
13. Librarians ensure high level services, giving answers that are suitable and objective to user needs, and behaving with respect towards user requests.

14. Librarians ensure confidentiality to information of a personal nature which is given by a user, as well as the information sources accessed by the user.
15. Librarians treat colleagues and their work with respect, and defend their interests if these do not contradict the norms of professional ethics.
16. Librarians share their experience and knowledge with colleagues, facilitating their professional development.
17. Librarians respect intellectual property rights.

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