

Code of Ethics for Librarians

Translated by the KLA Ethics Committee

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Librarians, as the central force of library administration that contribute to the development of society through the transmission of the memories of nations and the humankind, have heavy responsibilities. These responsibilities can be finally fulfilled only when the critical self-awakening and moral sensibility is alive in every aspect of their professional activities. We, hereby, as an oath to ourselves and as a promise to the people, establish an ethical guiding post by which we will find our direction, and declare it today.

1. **[Social responsibility]** Librarians contribute to the development of democratic society in which the freedom and the dignity of the humankind are ensured.
 - A. Librarians contribute to the facilitation of people's right-to-know that is guaranteed by the constitution.
 - B. Librarians promote the people's willingness to self-growth and support the efforts.
 - C. Librarians protect the freedom of libraries and the users, and establish the equal access to information.
 - D. Librarians become the cultural leaders who open up a mature knowledge society.

2. **[Self-growth]** Librarians, through a consistent self-improvement, grow along with the history and develop with the civilization.
 - A. Librarians are not negligent in improving themselves, and consistently devote themselves to the research and practice.
 - B. Librarians realize that it is their duty to preserve the history and to transmit the facts.
 - C. Librarians develop the ability to actively handle social changes and demands of users.
 - D. Librarians, armed with the pioneer spirit, overcome daily obstacles, and work with enthusiasm, perseverance, courage, and hope.

3. **[Professionalism]** Librarians fulfill their duties as professionals by means of thorough awareness of the professional knowledge and protection of autonomy.
 - A. Librarians do their best to obtain necessary professional knowledge and technique regarding their work.
 - B. Librarians demonstrate the autonomy as professionals and obtain appropriate social status by themselves.
 - C. Librarians, in case a standpoint of the parent organization is against the principles of the

professionalism, are responsible to oppose to this position based on their professional beliefs.

D. Librarians understand the importance of the professional organizations and take active parts in these organizations.

4. **【Cooperation】** Librarians promote efficiency in the organizational management through strengthening the cooperation.

A. Librarians first of all strive to enhance the competitiveness of their local libraries that are the foundations of the cooperation.

B. Librarians then consistently develop the system of cooperation among libraries.

C. Librarians extend their domain of activities through the cooperation with other social agencies.

D. Librarians, although it might not be beneficial to their own organizations, maintain the will to cooperate.

5. **【Service】** Librarians serve people with devotional attitude, and induce the social awareness of the real value of libraries.

A. Librarians strive for the professional service relevant to wide variety of demands of the users.

B. Librarians do not discriminate against users based on their ideological orientation, age, gender, or social status.

C. Librarians always perform their duties with kind and friendly manners.

D. Librarians endeavor to obtain the rightful social recognition of libraries.

6. **【Collection】** Librarians, as the ultimate authority to collect, organize, preserve knowledge resources, and to make them available for free use, resist any interference that interrupts these activities.

A. Librarians are responsible to protect the national cultural heritage and social memories.

B. Librarians should be free from prejudice, interference, or temptation of any kind in selecting knowledge resources.

C. Librarians strive for standardization in organization of knowledge resources.

D. Librarians protect personal information of the users and are not forced to disclose this information.

7. **【Dignity】** Librarians maintain dignity as professionals engaged in public organizations.

A. Librarians always perform their duties with pride as professionals.

B. Librarians always maintain honest attitude and self-esteem.

C. Librarians do not attempt to gain any illegitimate benefit related to their work.

D. Librarians sincerely observe the professional ethical code.