

CILIP Workshop on Ethics – Flipchart Transcriptions

Held at Gladstone Library, Hawarden on 14
November 2017

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Visibility of Ethics

Where do the values or ethical principles that guide you in your work come from? (open session)

Making the world a better place

Drawn to career because of its associated values

Ethical Principles sum up me

Mission statement of organisation and associated statements

School – “Don’t do to others”

Family/parents

Empathy

Faith-based

Caring for integrity of information product

Dealing with people – experience

Leadership (from everybody)

Library school – teaching

Management responsibility for others increases awareness/need for values/ethics

Line managers’ example (good and bad)

Professional Networks(eg SCL)

Development of common/shared values

Non-corporates – opportunity of making a positive difference

The Big Issues

What do you consider to be the big issues/challenges in your workplace and/or the profession as a whole? (Table Discussion)

Table A

(presented as Vicious cycle with issues radiating from hub of Big Issues – possible to jump on at any point in cycle))

Lack of respect for professionalism – courage to challenge

Perception of service

Loss of service points – increased demand

Motivation – emotional well-being – self esteem

Staff – demand on time/skills

Technology – advancing – changing ways of accessing information

Time

Money – lack of – staff – resources

Digital – divide – user skills – staff skills

User expectation – range - delivery – skills

Table B

Funding – stakeholders – HEFCE - commercialisation

Dilution of service – deprofessionalisation – perception

IT – Council “owned” IT facilities

Fake News

The Big Issues (Table Discussion) (cont.)

Library Literacy – critical thought/skills – google/twitter/facebook –
enough human resource??

Silo libraries

Brexit

? Gatekeeper/facilitator/navigator?

Round-up of the Big Issues (table feedback)

Table A

Vicious circle with following aspects:

Money/lack of resources

(No public Librarians at Workshop – could not get away)

Changing User expectation

Technology

Patchy investment/more competition

Short-termism

Declining status (of Librarian/Information Professional)

Demotivation

Table B

Funding

Commercialisation/privatisation

Relationship between stakeholders/funding/services

Revenue generation – demands (of it)

Impact on human resource

Deprofessionalisation

Perception others have of role (of Librarian)

Apsomediaries

Cognitive dissonance – anyone can do it (ie library/information work)

Round-up of the Big Issues (table feedback) (cont.)

Lack of Information Literacy

Need for critical thinking

Need for staff development

Fake news

[Note: this page is provided for information to help understand following Flipchart transcriptions commenting on the Ethical Principles – a copy of the Principles was provided at the Workshop]

Ethical Principles

Library and information professionals are frequently the essential link between users and the information they require. They therefore occupy a position that carries responsibilities.

The conduct of members should be characterised by the following general principles and values:

1. Concern for the public good in all professional matters, including respect for diversity within society, and the promoting of equal opportunities and human rights.
2. Concern for the good reputation of the information profession.
3. Commitment to the defence, and the advancement, of access to information, ideas and works of the imagination.
4. Provision of the best possible service within available resources.
5. Concern for balancing the needs of actual and potential users and the reasonable demands of employers.
6. Equitable treatment of all information users.
7. Impartiality, and avoidance of inappropriate bias, in acquiring and evaluating information and in mediating it to other information users.
8. Respect for confidentiality and privacy in dealing with information users.
9. Concern for the conservation and preservation of our information heritage in all formats.
10. Respect for, and understanding of, the integrity of information items and for the intellectual effort of those who created them.
11. Commitment to maintaining and improving personal professional knowledge, skills and competences.
12. Respect for the skills and competences of all others, whether information professionals or information users, employers or colleagues.

These points are presented in no particular order of priority.

Critique of the Existing Ethical Principles (Table Discussions)

Table B

Who are Principles for

Top 3 Principles

Participant 1 3; 7; 1/6 (the same)

Participant 2 3; 7; 9

Participant 3 1/6 (Same); 7; 8

Participant 4 4; 5

Participant 5 6; 8; 12;11

To drop or Change

Do we need 12 – possibly 4 or 5

6 themes:

Equality & Diversity

Non-biased

Freedom of Access

Conflict of interest

Balance & Ethical Choices

Merge 2 & 12?

2 & 4 could have more teeth

10 as for 2 & 4

10 is baggy

[Note Table A did not provide flipchart]

Round-up of Critique of Existing Ethical Principles (Table feedback)

Top 3 Principles

Table A

1 & 6 jointly top

7

3

Table B

Principles that could be dropped or changed

Table A

Combine 1 & 6

Combine 2 & 11

Need more teeth

Plain language

To be understood by users – new ones must be accessible to them

Able to put on t-shirt

Detail should go into Code (of Professional Practice)

Table B

Combine 2 & 11

All too “baggy”

Round-up of Critique of Existing Ethical Principles (Table feedback) (cont)

10 – very baggy and needs review

8 mainly about legal requirements

Why “Good of the Profession”?

Dislike use of (words) “concern”, “respect”

4 – could be seen as welcoming cuts

What’s Missing

Table B

Integrity of data

Integrity of use of data

Fake News