



## THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

### CODE OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

#### **Introduction**

A core objective of the Library Association of Ireland is to support the professional standing of librarianship in Ireland.<sup>1</sup> This Code of Professional Practice (the Code) provides a framework of values for members of the Library Association of Ireland (LAI). The Code defines the values of librarianship as professionalism, impartiality and integrity. All members of the LAI undertake to adhere to the Code.

#### **Purpose of the Code**

The Code is designed to:

- inform LAI members' decision-making;
- guide the management and delivery of library and information services;
- assure users of library and information services that LAI members adhere to legislation and other regulations in providing services and access to information;
- assure the wider society that LAI members place considerations of the common good at the centre of their professional activities.

#### **Using the Code**

The LAI's members work in an increasingly complex environment. The Code should guide their professional practice and assessment of issues; this will also require judgement within the context of each different situation.

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<sup>1</sup>Memorandum and Articles of Association of Cumann Leabharlann na hÉireann.

## **Our values: professionalism, impartiality, integrity**

### **Professionalism**

1. We manage and deliver library and information services within our respective legislative and regulatory environments. We keep abreast of legislative and regulatory changes which may impact on the management and delivery of our professional services.
2. We strive to practice the highest standards of librarianship and information management.
3. We endeavour to ensure that our services are fit for purpose, responsive and accessible.
4. We commit to continuing professional development.
5. We foster a collegiate working environment across all sectors of the profession, based on mutual respect for respective skills and knowledge.

### **Impartiality**

1. We ensure that our services are provided in a fair and egalitarian manner to all user groups in our respective communities.
2. We select materials in all formats, based on best professional practice, to meet the needs of users. We provide access to as wide a range of material as is practicable. We strive to ensure the long-term preservation and conservation of materials for the benefit of future users.
3. We uphold the right of individuals to hold ideas and express opinions.

### **Integrity<sup>2</sup>**

1. We uphold the good standing and reputation of the profession.
2. We are honest in performing professional services.
3. We conduct our professional activities with courtesy, integrity and humanity.
4. We show respect for colleagues, our users, the scholarship of others and the law.
5. We refrain from ascribing views to, or speaking on behalf of, the LAI, unless specifically authorised to do so.

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<sup>2</sup>The LAI acknowledges the use of the Code of Practice for Information Brokers, EUSIDIC, October 1993.

## Appendix: further resources

### Library Association of Ireland

The LAI makes a range of relevant materials to support this Code available to its members on [www.libraryassociation.ie](http://www.libraryassociation.ie). In particular the homepage of the LAI Education Committee: Professional Standards includes links to

- Competency statements/frameworks from professional associations;
- Standards and guidelines on library service provision, management and operations.

### Other

The website of the **Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals** ([www.cilip.org.uk](http://www.cilip.org.uk)) includes links to its materials on ethics and professional knowledge and skills.

Many Sections of the **International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions** ([www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org)) have developed guidelines relevant to professional practice, and there is also a specific Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section.

*Document based on the LAI Code of Ethics (2007)<sup>3</sup>; reviewed and revised by the LAI Professional Standards Committee, 2013 and approved by LAI Council, 12 December 2013.*

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<sup>3</sup> This document was prepared by the Education Committee of the LAI and adopted at the Association's AGM 8 March, 2007.