

Code of Ethics for EAHIL Members

SOCIETY

The role of libraries and librarians, in society is to optimise the recording and representation of information and to provide access to it.

The core mission of librarians and other information workers is to ensure access to information for all for personal development, education, cultural enrichment, leisure, economic activity and informed participation in and enhancement of democracy.

The health sciences librarian promotes access to health information for all within the library's target user groups in health care and creates and maintains conditions that facilitate informed healthcare decisions

Definitions, society

- *Health sciences librarian* = in a broad sense, professional library staff who provides information services to users, colleagues, citizens and the health care community
- *Informed health care decisions* = health care here includes all aspects of medicine and health care from study to research - activities that ultimately affect health care
- *Target user groups* = the users that the library is supposed to give service to

CUSTOMERS

The health sciences librarian provides the best available information for the user and observes professional confidentiality

Definitions, customers

- *User* = a person who seeks medical or health information from libraries: a user might be clinical staff, patients, students, researchers, and consumers.
- *Observes professional confidentiality* = the professional promise of discretion; the obligation to preserve confidentiality as observed elsewhere in the medical professions
- *Best available information* = evidence informed approach - combining patient values, librarian expertise with the best available literature.

INSTITUTION

The health sciences librarian uses professional expertise and experience in the interest of the library's target user groups within the institution which the library serves. The aim of the library should be to facilitate the aims of the institution.

PROFESSION

The health sciences librarian maintains and develops professional skills to deliver library services that enhance user experience. In relation to vendors and agents health sciences librarians must always act in the interest of users and institution.

Definition profession

- Several European countries and employers have their own codes of ethics for the library profession and employees. These must be used when applicable.
- User Experience or UX, as it is defined in the library context, is a suite of techniques based around first understanding and then improving the experiences people have when using our library services. It utilises ethnography and design to achieve this.

'SELF & VALUES' or 'EAHIL VALUES'

EAHIL expects health science librarians to uphold and promote universal values including: Honesty, integrity, respect, fairness, equity, inclusion, diversity, openness, and the use of green standards.

The health sciences librarian assumes personal responsibility for developing and maintaining professional excellence and should stay up-to-date and comply with new laws and regulations as relevant to ethics.

The health sciences librarian actively promotes diversity, equity and inclusion in library services and professional activities

The health science librarian uses a collaborative approach creating networks with peers across institutional, organisational, and geographic boundaries.

The health science librarian uses and promotes Open Science with vendors, users and communities.

Definitions:

Honesty: being truthful, trustworthy, and genuine.

Integrity: the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles.

Respect: due regard for the feelings, wishes, or rights of others

Fairness: impartial and just treatment or behaviour without favouritism or discrimination.

Equity: being fair and impartial

Inclusion: practice or policy of providing equal access to opportunities and resources for people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized, such as those who have physical or mental disabilities and members of other minority groups.

Diversity: including or involving people from a range of different social and ethnic backgrounds and of different genders, sexual orientations, etc.

Openness: lack of secrecy or concealment

Green standards: make less harmful to the environment

Open Science: make scientific research and its dissemination accessible to all levels of society, amateur or professional.

Open science is transparent and accessible knowledge that is shared and developed through collaborative networks

CoE was approved in the EAHIL General Assembly that took place on 19th September 2002 in Köln.

CoE was updated in 2022 and is being presented to the EAHIL Council Meeting on 31st May 2022 for review.

