



Cataloguing *Code of Ethics* Update

Competencies & Education for a
Career in Cataloging Interest
Group Session

February 4, 2021

Cataloging Ethics Steering Committee

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Background and context

April 2018 - Members of the Cataloging & Metadata Management Section (CaMMS) of ALCTS meet about forming a task force or working group to tackle the formidable task of creating a cataloging code of ethics. Those in attendance expressed a desire for this to be an international effort.

February 2019 - The first meeting of the Cataloging Ethics Steering Committee, consisting of members from the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

Background and context

April 2019 - The Cataloging Ethics Steering Committee puts out a call for volunteers to participate in six Working Groups. Each Working Group would focus on one cataloging area, would have an elected chair, and a member of the Steering Committee would serve as a liaison between the Committee and the Working Group. **Over 100 volunteers responded!!**

Why Working Groups? The Steering Committee needed a way to tap the collective wisdom of the cataloging community to create a code of ethics that accurately reflects the values and concerns of that community.

Working Group involvement

July 2019 – Working Group membership finalised and leaders elected. Each Working Group had a liaison from the Steering Committee.

August-December 2019 – Working Groups worked on their assigned area of focus and produced a report for the Steering Committee.

The initial goal of the Cataloging Ethics Steering Committee was to have a draft of the *Cataloguing Code of Ethics* available on a Google doc for public comment by April 2020, but COVID-19 hit.

Progress in the pandemic era

January-June 2020 - Committee reviewed Working Group reports and wrote first draft of the Code.

June 2020 - First draft presented at ALCTS' Virtual Interest Group Week. 38 comments received during session; 68 during subsequent consultation period.

June-August 2020 - Draft available for public comment. Committee meetings discussed public feedback and revised accordingly. Second draft finalized.

Progress in the pandemic era

September 2020 - CILIP Metadata & Discovery Group (MDG) presentation and discussion for further feedback on the Statements. Opened up to the Canadian francophone community. An additional 168 comments (by 42 people) were made on the 2nd draft.

October-December 2020 - Committee meetings discussed public feedback and revised accordingly.

January 2021 - Final version of *Cataloguing Code of Ethics* completed.

Cataloging Ethics Steering Committee Website

<https://sites.google.com/view/cataloging-ethics/home>

Contains links to the *Cataloguing Code of Ethics*, but here is a direct link: <http://bit.ly/3cbdmpW>

Next Steps

The *Cataloguing Code of Ethics* has not yet been reviewed or approved by a professional organization.

Cataloging Ethics Steering Committee has contacted the American Library Association's Committee On Professional Ethics (COPE). Would like to work with CILIP, IFLA, and other professional bodies.

Questions still outstanding: How often will the document be reviewed/revised, who will do it? Timetable for revision?

Next Steps

Case studies - we want case studies associated with the document to illustrate the ethical statements.

Committee ideas (though we would like to hear your ideas too!):

- Use Google forms to collect case studies from cataloging community and then post to the Steering Committee website.
- Steering Committee can host an online workshop to create case studies with the cataloging community.

Let's Talk...

We want to hear from you about how you plan to use or modify the *Cataloguing Code of Ethics*!

What questions do you have about the document? Are there any statements you would like to discuss?