

MICHIGAN HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

CODE OF ETHICS

This Code of Ethics for the Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association is intended to serve as a guideline addressing the following issues:

- a. the dignity of the profession
- b. providing service to the clientele
- c. committment to intellectual freedom
- d. responsibility to the library's sponsor
- e. upholding the truth
- f. responsibility to society

While there are no consequences for ignoring these guidelines, membership in the Association implies adherence to this code. The Association is judged by the integrity of its individual members.

The health sciences librarian has a professional obligation to engage in educational activities that contribute to professional growth, strengthen continuing education certification and academic preparation requirements, and raise the quality and credibility of the profession.

The librarian is responsible for using professional judgement on behalf of the broad clientele and should consider the needs and interest of the clientele above organizational or personal needs or interests.

The librarian is responsible for using professional experience and education to maintain and improve the library, library services, and environment in which they exist.

The librarian is responsible for providing access to information to all users and potential users of the library. Policies relating to the circulation and use of library materials must be fair, flexible, and designed to maximize access to information.

The librarian has the responsibility and obligation to maintain a collection of materials appropriate to the needs of the clientele. The librarian's attitude to clients should be one of courtesy and helpfulness. Communication skills should be used to determine the client's individual information needs. The librarian should refrain from the unauthorized practice of medicine or law.

The Health Sciences Librarian

- will write guidelines for the protection of a client's request for information and the librarian's response.
- will work with the Library's administration to develop guidelines for access to information in the Library.
- will protect the client's right to request information and have the request held confidential from any third party inquiry.

^{MHSLA}
The ~~Medical Library Association~~ is dedicated to improving health through the design, development, and management of information systems; the creation and monitoring of education programs and information services; and research in the Library Information profession. As a member of ~~MLA~~ ^{MHSLA} I adhere to/am obligated to follow/approve/uphold these professional obligations:

- to provide individuals or groups with the most current, accurate, and relevant health information, regardless of personal beliefs or the possible uses to which the information might be put.
- to protect the right of access to health information and the confidence and privacy of clients.
- to select and organize health information to support quality health care as defined by the mission of the institution.
- to advise myself and others:
 - a. to uphold the laws governing the creation, reproduction, and dissemination of health information
 - b. to avoid misrepresentation when gathering health information.
- to personally pursue and to encourage colleagues to pursue high standards of professional competence in the health information science.

18 December 1991 NJW

(see MLA news)