



International Federation of Library Associations  
[www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org)

# Transparency and anti-corruption Training

By FAIFE (IFLA's committee on *Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression*)

# Schedule (7 ½ - 8 hours)

- Morning (3-3 ½ hours)
  - Introduction
  - Presentation on transparency and anti-corruption
  - Coffee break
  - Localisation and legalisation structures
- Lunch (1 ½ hours)
- Afternoon (3 hours)
  - Group discussion: Corruption in libraries
  - Coffee break
  - Group work: Building on existing librarian practice
  - Final session: Campaigning - resolutions and/or action plans

# About FAIFE

- IFLA/FAIFE was founded in Copenhagen in 1997 as an initiative within IFLA (International Federation of Library Association and Institutions) to defend and promote the basic human rights defined in Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- IFLA/FAIFE furthers free access to information and freedom of expression in all aspects, directly or indirectly, related to libraries and librarianship.
- IFLA/FAIFE monitors the state of intellectual freedom within the library community world-wide, supports IFLA policy development and co-operation with other international human rights organisations, and responds to violations of free access to information and freedom of expression.
- More info at [www.ifla.org/faife/](http://www.ifla.org/faife/)

# About FAIFE's work

- FAIFE works in the spirit of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
  - *"Everyone has the right to freedom of expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of the frontiers."*
- FAIFE's specific mission is to promote access to information and ideas through libraries

# What is corruption, anti-corruption and transparency

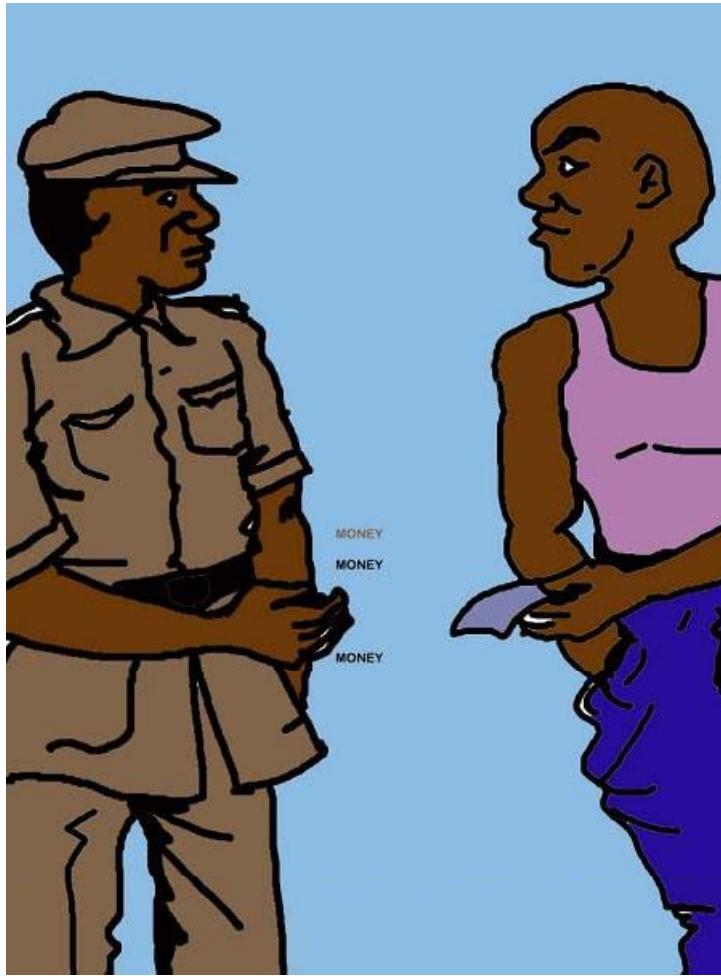
- Corruption:
  - threatens good governance, sustainable development, democratic process, and fair business practices.
  - What does corrupt mean: "*inducement to wrong by improper or unlawful means (as bribery) , impairment of integrity, virtue, or moral principle*". Merriam-Webster's dictionary
- "*Transparency is the basis of good governance and the first step in fighting corruption. It provides **a universal rationale** for the provision of good records management systems, archives, and financial regulatory and monitoring systems. It is directly linked to the practice of socially responsible authorship and journalism, the work of editors, **the publishing and the distribution of information** through all media.*"

IFLA Manifesto on  
*Transparency, Good Governance  
and Freedom from Corruption*

# Corruption and the Information Profession

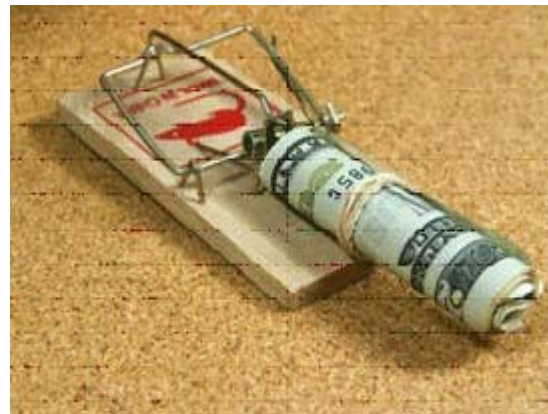
- Q. Why should the information professions be concerned with corruption?
- A. All ethical professions should concern themselves with matters of equity and moral conduct
- Librarians and other information professionals are no exception to this principle
- It can be argued that libraries play a special role

# Pictures and posters



Above: Courtesy of <http://www.soxfirst.com>

# Pictures and posters (2)





# Your own stories...

- What are your experiences with corruption?
  - Do you know how many people in your workplace are affected by corruption?
  - What are your organization's/company's policies regarding corruption?
  - What is your own view on corruption?
  - What is your experience of standing up to corruption?



What is corruption  
What is the extent of corruption  
How to fight it

# A Presentation on Corruption

# Characteristics

- An operational definition of corruption
  - *"The misuse of entrusted power for private gain."*
- Two kinds of corruption
  - "according to rule" - bribe is paid to receive preferential treatment for something that the bribe receiver is required to do by law. Bribe as motivation to get things done.
  - "against the rule" - bribe paid to obtain services the bribe receiver is prohibited from providing. Bribe to look the other way.

# The four-fold effect of corruption

- Political
  - Public offices and institutions lose their legitimacy when they are misused for private advantage. Especially harmful to emerging democracies
- Economic
  - Depletion of national wealth. Channeling of scarce public resources to uneconomic projects. A deterrent to investment
- Social
  - Undermines people's trust. Frustration and general apathy among a disillusioned public result in a weak civil society.
- Environmental
  - Careless exploitation of natural resources. Ineffective regulation.

# Can corruption be measured?

- Can the cost of corruption be quantified?
  - No. Bribes are not recorded – and do not always take form of monetary value: favors, gifts, etc.
  - Social cost are even less quantifiable: The cost of disillusion...

# Examples of corruption

- How does corruption affect people's lives?
  - In the worst case corruption costs lives. In countless other cases, it costs their freedom, health or money.
- Examples of corruption:
  - Dutch public regulators received gifts to turn a blind eye on safety
  - Excessive, uncontrolled logging on Borneo threatens the Penan people

# Conditions for corruption

- Corruption thrives...
  - Where temptation coexists with permissiveness
  - Where institutional checks on power are missing
  - Where decision making remains obscure
  - Where civil society is thin on the ground
  - Where great inequalities in the distribution of wealth condemn people to live in poverty



What is corruption

**What is the extent of corruption** ←

How to fight it

# A Presentation on Corruption



# The Corruption Perception Index

- Developed by Transparency International
- The CPI ranks 180 countries by their perceived levels of corruption, as determined by expert assessments and opinion surveys.



The Top: Denmark, New Zealand and Sweden share the highest score at 9.3, followed immediately by Singapore at 9.2.



The bottom: Somalia at 1.0, slightly trailing Iraq and Myanmar at 1.3 and Haiti at 1.4.



What is corruption

What is the extent or corruption

**How to fight it** ←

# A Presentation on Corruption

# Transparency

- The openness of activity in both public and private sectors of society to public scrutiny
- It is intended to be a mechanism for empowering citizens to work for:
  - An effective democratic process
  - A fair and corruption-free public administration
  - An honest and public-spirited business environment

# How to combat corruption

- Anti-corruption programmes worldwide include various elements:
  - Administrative and institutional reform
  - Legal sanctions and energetic policing
  - Creation of regulatory systems
- These rely on *transparency* to be effective
- They are complemented by the moral effects of transparency
  - *"Sunshine is the best disinfectant"*

Judge Louis D. Brandeis

# Implementing transparency

- Exposing the activities of both public and private sectors to general scrutiny will limit corruption – but who will do it?
  - Democratically elected representatives
  - Regulatory bodies
  - NGOs such as Transparency International
  - Other information institutions such as libraries

# Important institutions

- United Nations Development Programme
  - Anti-corruption and good governance are central elements in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- Investment banks (insert regional information) World bank, Asian Development Bank
- Transparency International
- [Insert local or regional institutions]

# Transparency International

- A global network including
- +90 locally established national chapters and chapters-in-formation.
- Their mission is to bring together relevant players from government, civil society, business and the media to promote transparency in elections, in public administration, in procurement and in business.
- Each year the CPI is published

# Freedom of Information

- Freedom of information legislation (aka open records, sunshine laws)
  - Set rules on access to information or records held by government bodies.
- Over 70 countries around the world have implemented some form of such legislation.
- A basic principle behind most freedom of information legislation is that the burden of proof falls on the body *asked* for information, not the person *asking* for it. The requester does not usually have to give an explanation for their request, but if the information is not disclosed a valid reason has to be given.



# Professional implications of transparency

- A free press, investigative journalism and independent authors
- Records management to ensure preservation of documentation
- Ethical Information and Communication Technology
- Healthy debate on personal privacy, official and industrial secrecy
- **Libraries that fight censorship and promote and protect access to information**

# Libraries and transparency: reality or fantasy?

- Libraries are *potential* transparency institutions
  - Particularly national and public libraries have the potential to be important contributors to transparency
  - However there are issues connected with the idea of libraries as transparency institutions