

# **RUSSIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

## **The Code of Ethics for Russian Librarian**

### **PREAMBLE**

The Code defines the moral foundations of Russian librarian's professional activity.

Russian librarian is guided by the following beliefs:

- a library is a necessary and important institution that performs information, educational, cultural, leisure and other functions that meet needs of individuals and society;
- knowledge and information are essential components of social development, modernization and prosperity of Russia, promotes social stability and equity;
- library resources are the basis for the preservation, development and dissemination of cultural heritage, spiritual traditions, the diversity of national cultures and languages of Russian Federation and other countries;
- humanism is the ideological basis of library profession;
- social nature of library profession is based on a sense of social responsibility.

### **IN RELATIONS WITH SOCIETY A LIBRARIAN**

- is guided by professional duty, but not by personal views or preferences of political, economic, religious and other organizations;
- opposes to censorship; economic, political and other barriers, ensuring user access to information, knowledge and cultural heritage;
- complies with statutory measures to prevent the use of information in aims of violence, spreading of racial and religious hatred, ethnic, political and other discrimination;
- promotes positive intercultural dialogue of ethnic, linguistic and cultural groups represented in the society;
- aims to develop partnerships with governments, NGOs and various institutions for the promotion of libraries and enhancing their social significance.

### **IN RELATIONS WITH USER A LIBRARIAN**

- refers to all users, real and potential, respectfully and kindly;
- provides high quality of library services and high level of cultural interaction;
- provides the user's right to search, to select and to get information and knowledge, also by means of modern information and communication technologies;
- provides the user's right to access to cultural values and initiates user participation in cultural life of society;
- ensure equity of rights for users to get library services, regardless of their gender, race, nationality, property or employment status, political or religious beliefs, physical health;
- promotes socialization of individuals, formation of civic consciousness;
- promotes personal information culture;
- promoting the book and reading as a source of intellectual and spiritual development of personality, and promotes formation and development of culture of reading;
- promote the intellectual and spiritual development of children and youth groups of users;
- does not promote inaccurate, false materials, aware of the danger and the harm they can cause the individual and society;
- protects user's right to privacy and the confidentiality of his/her information activities, but guided by a sense of social responsibility.

### **IN RELATIONS WITH COLLEAGUES A LIBRARIAN**

- treat others with kindness, respect and honesty;
- participates in formation of corporate culture and follows it in aims of effectively collaborative work and comradely mutual assistance;
- promotes formation of young professional staff;
- complies with the principle of confidentiality of personal information;
- strives to earn own reputation by means of professionalism and moral characters, does not use unfair methods of competition;
- uses the results of other intellectual property in a good faith, avoiding plagiarism.

### **IN RELATIONS WITH OWN PROFESSION A LIBRARIAN**

- strives to own professional development, cultural self-education as essential conditions for carrying out his/her social mission and professional duty;
- making efforts to raise the social prestige of the profession and recognition of its prospective role in the information society;
- cares about his/her appearance as an integral part of building a positive image of the profession;
- during professional activity does not allow for obtaining personal financial or other benefits from the users, colleagues, booksellers and other vendors of goods and services;
- does not commit acts detrimental to the prestige of the library profession, takes care of its high public recognition

### **COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE**

Knowledge of and compliance with the Code is a matter of honor, conscience and professional duty of every Russian librarian.

Russian Library Association is working out to promote the Code among librarians.

The Council of Russian Library Association considers the violations of the Code, which seriously damage the prestige of the library profession.

*The Code was adopted by the Conference of Russian Library Association, XVI Annual Session, May 26, 2011, the city of Tyumen, Russia.*

The Code on RLA web site <http://www.rba.ru/or/od/cod.html>

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