# The Cataloguing Code of Ethics 2021: informing subject cataloguing and indexing for marginalised communities.

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# Dydd Santes Dwynwen Hapus! Happy Saint Dwynwen's Day!
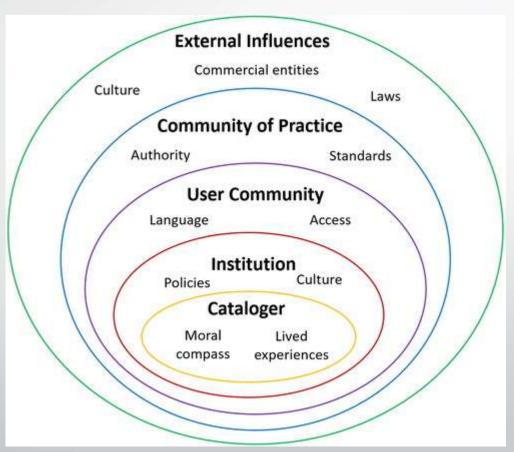
# The Code - a brief history

- Informed by Critical Cataloguing movement

- International community initiative

- Inclusive and open

- Complements professional codes of ethics

# The Code – intended audience

'This ethics document provides a framework for approaching cataloguing work that will be a useful tool for practitioners, employers, standards' developers, vendors, students, and educators when ethical situations arise.'

'We accept that every workplace is different, and responses to ethical situations are necessarily framed by those local contexts.'

# Cataloging Ecosystem

# The Community's ethical concerns

- Access to resources and metadata
- Acknowledging bias
- Advocacy
- Collaboration
- Critically applying standards

- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Education and training
- Respect for agent privacy and preferences
- Responsibility and transparency
- Understanding and meeting user needs

# Tasks, audiences and hurdles

**We catalogue** resources in our collections **with the end-user in mind to facilitate access and promote discovery.**

**We acknowledge that we bring our biases to the workplace**; therefore, **we strive to overcome personal, institutional, and societal prejudices in our work.**

We commit to **describing resources without discrimination whilst respecting the privacy and preferences of** their associated **agents.**

**We work with our user communities** to understand their needs in order to provide relevant and timely services.

# Cataloguing ethics in action

- Libraries and Archives Canada *Vision 2030 – Reflecting Diverse Voices*

- First Nations Collection Description Guidelines Project survey – *Resources for First Nations Collection Description*. (Australia)the work of Carissa Chew

- Carissa Chew - *Inclusive Terminology - Guide and Glossary for the Cultural Heritage Sector.*

- Queer Metadata Collective working groups including Classification and Subject Headings

# Collaboration is key

**We collaborate widely** to support the creation, distribution, maintenance, and enrichment of metadata in various environments and jurisdictions.

**We recognise that** interoperability and consistent application of standards help our users find and access materials. However, **all standards are biased; we will approach them critically and advocate to make cataloguing more inclusive.**

**We support efforts to make standards and tools financially, intellectually, and technologically accessible** to all cataloguers, and developed with evidence-based research and stakeholder input.

# Cataloguing ethics in action

- Open letter to National Library of Medicine 2022 – MeSH

- Thema

- Homosaurus v. 2 (2019)

- Wikidata

# Education, jobs, sustainability

**We insist on diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace**. We **promote education, training, equitable pay, and a fair work environment for everyone who catalogues** so that they can continue to support search and discovery.

**We take responsibility for our cataloguing decisions and advocate for transparency** in our institutional practices and policies.

**We advocate for the value of cataloguing work** within our organisations and with external partners.

# Cataloguing ethics in action

- Embedding cataloguing ethics in LIS education/CPD modules

- Ensuring that institutional policies are open and honest

- Advocacy – local, regional, national, international networks e.g. PCC, ISKO, IFLA SAA, ALA Core, CILIP MDG; systems, content & metadata provider user groups and working groups.

# Questions

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