

Committee on Professional Ethics

REPORT TO COUNCIL

As chair of the Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE), I am pleased to report on the committee's activities since the virtual event in June 2022.

Charge

The council committee on professional ethics shall augment the *Code of Ethics* (ala.org/tools/ethics) by explanatory interpretations and additional statements, prepared by this committee or elicited from other units of ALA. When units of the association develop statements dealing with ethical issues, a copy will be sent to the committee on professional ethics for review so that it may be compared to the existing ALA *Code of Ethics* in order to determine whether or not conflicts occur.

Q&A on Ableism

The Q&A on Ableism group is charged with drafting a formal document to provide probable answers to concerns and questions related to accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities, particularly inspired by the *Code of Ethics*' ninth principle. To date, the five working group members have reviewed an outline; invited committee liaisons representing various ALA units, roundtables, and committees; gathered input from the broader library community about ableism in the library profession and the Code of Ethics; and drafted a semi-final draft.

Preamble

The Committee, upon the suggestions in the Report of the COPE Working Group on Social and Racial Justice, began to revise the Code of Ethics preamble to add context for the newly added ninth principle in the 2021-2022 conference year. The group prepared a preliminary draft to add to the *Code of Ethics* preamble with contributions from the OIF staff before inviting committee liaisons to further contribute to the final revision. The committee continues this work seeking feedback from ALA leaders, including the Core Values Task Force.

Professional Ethics Liaisons

COPE committee members and associates have demonstrated further commitment to the ALA core values by serving as liaisons to other working groups and projects.

To this end, COPE relies on the time and energy devoted by liaisons of divisions, round tables, and affiliates. Thank you to Ms. Mary O. Keeling (AASL Representative); Dr. John M. Budd (LRRT Representative), Marna Clowney-Robinson (SRRT Representative), Lourdes Johnson (NMRT Representative), Dr. Leslie Campbell Hime (EMIERT Liaison), Margaret J. Danhof (UFL Liaison), Andrew Horbal (FMRT Liaison), Dr. Carol A. Leibiger (LHRT Liaison), Dr. Megan Jane Oakleaf (ACRL Liaison); and Sara Dallas (ALA Executive Board Liaison).

Thank You

The Committee on Professional Ethics thanks the OIF staff for their commitment, assistance, and hard work. In particular, Karen Gianni and Joyce McIntosh, for serving as staff liaisons, assisting with meetings, and guiding the Committee when questions arise. COPE thanks President Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada and the Executive Board for their confidence in the committee and for allowing them to serve ALA.

Respectfully Submitted,

ALA Committee on Professional Ethics

Johana Orellana Cabrera (Chair)
Erin Berman
Nancy Bolt
Sheri Edwards
Erica Freudenberger

Rory Patterson
Julia M. Warga
Andrea Caporale(Committee Associate)
Amy Sarkaria Wiggins (Committee Associate)

COMMITTEE INFORMATION UPDATE

Committee Name: Committee on Professional Ethics

Conference Year: 2022-2023

Committee Chair: Johana Orellana Cabrera

Staff Liaison: Karen Gianni

Committee Members:

Johana Orellana Cabrera (Chair)
Erin Berman
Nancy Bolt
Sheri Edwards
Erica Freudenberger

Rory Patterson
Julia M. Warga
Andrea Caporale(Committee Associate)
Amy Sarkaria Wiggins (Committee Associate)

Date of meeting(s)	Meeting format (in-person or virtual)	Number of members present	Total in attendance
November 16, 2022	Virtual	4	7

Committee Charge:

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Objectives of the committee for this conference year, including any planned activities:

1. Reevaluate the ALA Code of Ethics preamble to include a historical perspective and add context for 9th principle.
2. Finalize Q&A document to expand on the ALA Code of Ethics.
3. PLANNED: Draft guidance for collection development practices that balance 2nd principle (censorship) and the 9th principle (social and racial justice).

Describe interactions with other units within ALA:

1. Liaisons with AASL, LRRT, SRRT, NMRT, RRT, EMIERT, United for Libraries, YALSA, FMRT, LHRT, COSWL, BCALA, ACRL, PLA, and the ALA Executive Board.

Synthesis of activities (summarize discussions, decision(s) or motion(s) reached, and note follow-up action(s) required:

1. Sub groups formed to work on various COPE documents and projects.
2. COPE members volunteer to work with:
 - a. Joint Professional Values Programming Subgroup.

If unable to achieve desired committee outcomes, what hampered the ability to achieve stated goals (lack of resources, member participation, communication issues, procedural delays, etc.?)

Objectives are in progress.

Priorities/recommendations for the upcoming year:

Further expand the profession's and the association's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion with documents to enhance the new article to the ALA Code of Ethics.

Other comments/information you believe will help the Association in its work:

Submitted by: Johana Orellana Cabrera

Date Submitted: January 17, 2023