

## Committee on Professional Ethics

# REPORT TO COUNCIL

### 2015 Annual Conference – San Francisco, California

As chair of the Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE), I am pleased to report on the committee's activities since the 2015 Midwinter Meeting.

#### Ethics Education in LIS Programs

COPE is investigating how professional ethics are taught in LIS programs and will be conducting a survey of all ALA- and CAEP-accredited LIS programs regarding the inclusion of this topic in their curricula. The IRB-approved survey will be launched on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015, with hopes for a preliminary report at Midwinter 2016.

#### Educational Programming

The committee presented the following program at ALA's Annual Conference in San Francisco on Sunday, June 28, 2015 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.:

#### **Ethical Lapses: Many Shades of Grey**

How does your institution handle ethical issues? If there are policies in place, would you know how to apply them? In the second installment of the "What Would You Do?" series, we will tackle some of the ambiguous situations surrounding ethics in the field. Even if you think as professionals and librarians we know right from wrong, unintended and unforeseen ethical lapses can still occur. Join us to hear from a panel, review model policies, and role-play scenarios to help with decision-making in the face of real-life ethical grey areas.

Speaker Brendan Rogers of the San Francisco Public Library joined members of the committee in presenting an engaging discussion with over 70 attendees.

Program ideas for Orlando 2016 include enforceability of the Code of Ethics when personal beliefs are in conflict with professional expectations, as well as exploring the universality of ethics across library types.

The committee is also planning an online forum tentatively titled “Ask the Ethics Experts.” Participants would be invited to submit ethical questions prior to the event and receive guidance from members of the ethics community.

#### Other Future Projects

In addition to program planning, the committee will be soliciting questions requiring guidance regarding ethical issues of personnel matters. Members of the profession will be invited to submit questions to the committee for inclusion in a new Q&A document, with a goal of completing the document by the 2016 Annual Conference.

As a point of personal privilege, the committee chair would like to thank the Association for the opportunity to serve in this position for the last four years. It has been an amazing learning experience to focus on the application of these foundational principles in our professional work.

In closing, the Committee on Professional Ethics thanks the unit liaisons and the OIF staff for their commitment, assistance, and hard work. In particular, we would like to thank Kristin Pekoll for her expert assistance as our staff liaison.

Respectfully Submitted,

ALA Committee on Professional Ethics

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