

American Library Association
Committee Information Update

Please note: ALA and Council committees are required to **submit an update of their activities within one-month after each Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference.** This form will be sent to the ALA Council and the ALA Committee on Organization.

Report for Annual Conference 2015

Name of Committee: Committee on Professional Ethics

Committee Chair: Martin Garnar

Committee Members Present: Martin Garnar, Helen Adams, Hilary Albert, Kaetrena Kendrick (via phone), Leigh Rifenburg, Mary Jane Santos, and Jamie Lyn Segno

Committee Members Absent:

Others Present: Charles Hanson (United), Danise Hoover (RUSA), Jodi Spillane (ALCTS), Steven Phalen (Intern), Emily Lawrence (Intern), Kristin Pekoll (Staff), Jesse Holden (guest), Scott Muir (guest), Rosanne Cordell (guest), Beth Schuck (guest), Cynthia McCarthy (guest)

Accomplishments [at this meeting], a concise account:

- 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 6th, 2015, with hopes for a preliminary report at Midwinter 2016.
- 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.

Planned activities for upcoming year, a concise account:

- 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.
- 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.

Submitted by: Kristin Pekoll (staff liaison)

Date Submitted: 7/21/15

Please return the completed form to Kerri Price, ALA Executive Board Secretariat, Governance Office, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611, kprice@ala.org.