

Should Librarians Provide Information to Patrons with No Restrictions?

Iris Grunfeld

Advisors: Prof. Asa Kasher, Tel-Aviv University,

Daphne Raban, PhD., Haifa University

This study presents a professional identity concept for librarians and information specialists. This concept will serve as a toolbox and guideline for librarians in decision making and in handling special situations in the workplace.

Every profession has a characteristic identity, which makes it stand out from other professions. Each professional code of ethics reflects a hidden perception of that profession's identity. The current codes of ethics for librarianship reflect an identity that has no affinity to the quality of information. This work will offer additions to the current code of ethics so that quality dimension becomes a subject that can be dealt with from within, while based on the code of ethics.

Lack of public discussion on the quality of information brings about a void that impairs any attempt for classification of information by quality. This void - in a reality of a professional code of ethics that instructs librarians to provide all information - is the source of confusion between quality, value, and censorship. The study will explore the dilemma of library collection classification, by the dimensions of *information* quality rather than *service* quality.

The conclusions of this study are applied in cases of Internet activity, illegal social activity and immoral social activity.