

# Professional Ethics and Libraries: a Brief Overview of Current Issues in Spain

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## Professional Ethics and Libraries: a Brief Overview of Current Issues in Spain

- \* Academic and professional overview
- \* Associations and ethical codes
- \* Current issues
- \* Future issues

## Library and Information Science Degrees in Spain

Currently at 16 universities in 15 cities

Pre-Bologna: two degrees

Diplomatura en Biblioteconomía y Documentación (3 years degree) – 1991

Licenciatura en Documentación (Diplomatura + 2 years degree) – 1993

Bologna:

Grado en Información y Documentación (4 years degree)

Limited presence of Professional Ethics in LIS degrees

## Libraries and Librarians in Spain

(year: 2008, source: INE)

6.601 libraries – 84% public libraries at any level

27.964 workpeople – 17.204 librarians (42% of graduates)

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## Professional associations

More than 20 professional associations

Two “colegios profesionales” and two more in process



■ Col·legi Oficial de Bibliotecaris-Documentalistes de Catalunya – 1985

■ Col·legi Oficial de Bibliotecaris i Documentalistes de la Comunitat Valenciana – 2007

Membership not compulsory.

Catalunya: “col·legiats” (members in full standing for graduates in LIS) and “usuaris” (associate members for people related to the sector)

Valencia: membership is open for graduates in LIS and people with two years of professional experience in libraries

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## Consequences

Very young degree

Most librarians don't have a degree in LIS, or have acquired it later

Disconnection between the University and the profession

Lack of literature about Ethics in LIS

We have a long journey ahead of us, but we are still young and can learn from previous experiences

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## Ethical codes in Spain

Code of Ethics of the Col·legi Oficial de Bibliotecaris-Documentalistes de Catalunya

Published on June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006

31 articles and a preliminary provision

Concise statement

Sections: general principles, user services, documentary resources, relations between colleagues, management of centers, association life, final provisions

Principles: no discrimination, no censorship, quality of service, free access, defend the profession, cooperation

Places international declarations and legislation first:

*All COBDC members will take their guidance from this ethical code, without prejudice to the principles established by the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, declarations approved by IFLA or other competent bodies, and the legal framework governing Catalonia, Spain and the European Union.*

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## Main ethical issues in Spain

### Censorship

Public Library of Barañain (Navarre) – Local government censors some newspapers

### Control of access by minors

Debate about access to adults materials by teenagers

### Social responsibility

Gimeno, Javier; López, Pedro (coords.). De volcanes llena: biblioteca y compromiso social. Gijón: Trea, 2007

Manifest for social responsibility (Docentes de información y documentación por el compromiso social). Madrid, 3 de noviembre de 2008

### Payment for borrowing

Public lending right in Europe and Directive 92/100/CE

### Internet

Debate about the decision of the Autonomous Community of Madrid to limit Internet access in public libraries

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## Future issues

Professionalization

Inclusion of Professional Ethics in the degrees

Children and senior citizens

Immigration

Information literacy

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## Bibliography

Barain case: [www.asnabi.com/actividades/campanas/censura/relato](http://www.asnabi.com/actividades/campanas/censura/relato)

Col·legi Oficial de Bibliotecaris i Documentalistes de la Comunitat Valenciana: [cobdcv.es](http://cobdcv.es)

Col·legi Oficial de Bibliotecaris-Documentalistes de Catalunya: [www.cobdc.org](http://www.cobdc.org)

Internet limitations in Madrid:

[www.elpais.com/articulo/madrid/bibliotecas/publicas/limitan/uso/cientos/paginas/Internet/elpepiesp/mad/20100308elpmad\\_9/Tes](http://www.elpais.com/articulo/madrid/bibliotecas/publicas/limitan/uso/cientos/paginas/Internet/elpepiesp/mad/20100308elpmad_9/Tes)

IWETEL: [www.rediris.es/list/info/iwetel.html](http://www.rediris.es/list/info/iwetel.html)

Libraries and librarians statistics:

[www.mcu.es/culturabase/cgi/um?M=/t14/p14&O=culturabase&N=&L=0](http://www.mcu.es/culturabase/cgi/um?M=/t14/p14&O=culturabase&N=&L=0)

SEDIC's working group in ethics: [www.sedic.es](http://www.sedic.es)

***Vielen Dank für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit!***

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