Empowering Ethical Practice: Activities for Access Services

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Empowering Ethical Practice: Activities for Access Services

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Abstract
The library profession is guided by a Code of Ethics which explains our values, including privacy, copyright and fair use, equal access, stewardship, and integrity. We continue to serve our publics and garner good will because libraries are perceived as institutions operating in an ethical manner.

The Clark Library, University of Portland, desired to empower its staff with a deepened understanding of library ethics. The Access Services Unit, composed of Circulation, Interlibrary Loan, Course Reserves, Reference, Instruction, and a Digital Lab, implemented four activities to intentionally focus on ethics as applied to the day-to-day work of each unit.

Activities and Outcomes

Benefits

Activities
• Created an opportunity for teambuilding.
• Aligned with adult learning theory.
• Removed hierarchical distinctions.

Staff Engagement
• Staff gained a deeper understanding of the ethical practices embedded within Access Services functions.
• Staff considered the ethics behind Library policies.
• Staff reflection on ethical issues led to Library statement of ethical practice, and could inform a service philosophy statement.

References


