Your metadata, your responsibility – applying the Cataloguing Code of Ethics 2021 in the Metadata Ecosystem

Jane Daniels
Cataloguing Ethics Steering Committee Representative - UK
Email: catmetcymru@gmail.com LinkedIn: Jane Daniels

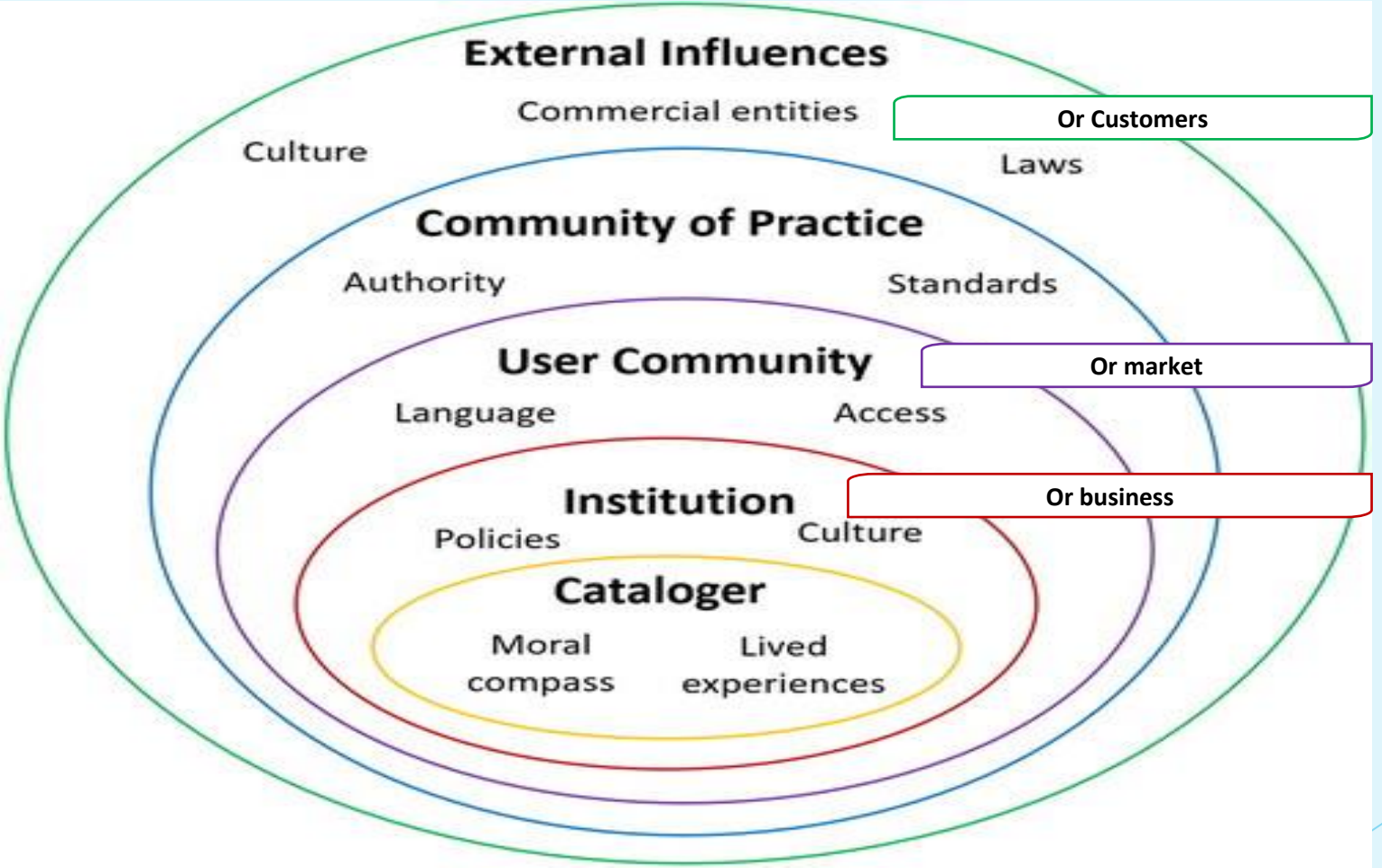
UKSG Forum- Our profession in 2030: publishing, sharing and curating content now and in the future

5th December 2024

The Code 2018 - 2024

- Informed by Critical Cataloguing movement, DEI and decolonisation
- International community initiative – inclusive and open
- Recognises special responsibilities of cataloguers and metadata managers
- Complements professional codes of ethics
- Endorsed by ALA (2021), CILIP (2022), CFLA-FCAB (2024)
- Practical tool for reviewing ethical policy and practice
- Encourages advocacy for and by cataloguers/metadata managers
- Intended for use by ALL metadata stakeholders – not just libraries

The International Cataloging Ecosystem



Code includes 10 statements - our joint ethical responsibilities

- Access to resources and metadata
- Acknowledging bias
- Advocacy
- Collaboration
- Critically applying standards
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Education and training
- Respect for agent privacy and preferences
- Responsibility and transparency
- Understanding and meeting user needs

Audiences and markets - meeting user needs

1. We catalogue … with the end-user in mind to facilitate access and promote discovery.

Who are your users / customers?

How do you measure their customer satisfaction / search and discovery experiences?

What about your ROI in systems, content and services?

Collaborations and business partnerships

7. We collaborate widely to support the creation, distribution, maintenance, and enrichment of metadata in various environments and jurisdictions.

Where are the pressure points in your current metadata workflows?

Who can you work with to review and resolve these - – locally, regionally, nationally, internationally?

What can we all do better together?

Workforce development and education

8. We insist on diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace. We promote education, training, equitable pay, and a fair work environment for everyone who catalogues …

What skills gaps do you have?

What are your training CPD needs?

Which organisations can you partner with to plug gaps and develop your staff expertise?

Our common goals & ethical responsibilities

- Create, disseminate, enrich and preserve metadata to support search, discovery and access (and sales!)
- Reflect cultural diversity in our publishing output, metadata and workforce
- Harmonise and harness evolving technologies, standards and human expertise to create sustainable, transparent and efficient workflows
- Embed ethical cataloguing in our workforce development – good for Society and good for business

Resources

- **Cataloging Ethics Steering Committee website & Code**
  https://sites.google.com/view/cataloging-ethics/home?pli=1
- **BIC (Publishing Industry) Metadata initiatives**

  https://bic.org.uk/resources/bic-metadata-map/
  - Metadata Map (2019)
  - Metadata Capabilities Directory (2021-)
  - Data Recipient Best Practice Project (2024 -)
- **ALA Core competencies for cataloging and metadata professional librarians (Revised 2023)**

https://alair.ala.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/4a980621-0f7b-4f8a-bfed-d0c8775866fb/content