

**The Best of Documents Librarianship:
Identifying Key Values and Principles**
Summary of group worksheet responses
September 8, 2005

Enduring Values/Principles

How They Will Help Deal with Challenges

Enduring, equitable, no fee access to govt information (advocate on behalf of users); assertive advocacy;

Continue to advocate in electronic distribution model;
Help shape the future w/agencies, vendors, publishers, institutions, users, ourselves;
National finding aids, collaboration, use regional to spearhead

Providing permanent unfettered free public access and sometimes this must be paper;

Ensuring free, permanent and usable public access;

Critical, independent and informed advocacy on behalf of potential users, libraries and institutions;

Free, permanent public access (including preservation);

Advocacy for users

Absolute guiding principle to help us make decisions and establish guidelines;
Needs analysis, system design, marketing – all with the user at the forefront

Specialized knowledge of resources and research strategies;

In-depth knowledge of govt. information, organization, & process;

Use this expertise to build & facilitate seamless, unmediated, federated access to electronic govt. info;

Apprenticing, outreach, instruction, informed advocacy;

Knowledge of documents & the structure of government;

Pull documents from different sources, ongoing collaboration with agencies, deal with decentralization of information;

Expertise – there are right & wrong answers

Instruction, teaching, outreach – explaining the complexities

Common bond, commitment, zeal;
Collegiality

Use this common ground to cooperate, collaborate;
Sharing best practices

Collaboration (with govt, publishers, institutions, each other);

Save space on collections, extend expertise available, bring best minds, practices, resources to bear;

Cooperation & collaboration among libraries, private sector, govt. agencies

Expands services and enables flexibility, affordability, consistency and allows us to influence dialogue

Commitment to accessibility & availability with a passion for the mission;
Access;
Passion to provide access to public information and commitment to users

Focusing on users & exploiting technologies to enhance access;
Use real data to inform access decisions;
Willing to adapt to change & make sure access is not lost but rather enhanced;
Helping users with real life problems, not merely an intellectual interest

Continual learning & teaching

Use new venues (outreach)

Service;
Desire to serve our patrons;
Commitment to meeting individual user needs

Re-interpret traditional values to make the best use of new tools;
Desire continues regardless of the environment

Archiving;
Archival collection;

Create an effective online environment based on user needs and expectations;
Resource to draw upon
Reduce redundant effort of acquiring, describing, preserving

Libraries retain the historical record – govt. may not, and traditionally has not

Providing best possible tools to find & use information

Knowing where assistance is needed & how to provide it both online & in person

Social responsibility – assuring the govt. keeps info in public domain, informed citizenry (even if they don't care);
Independence – depository program run by govt. but independent libraries gather and hold material for time eternal;
Librarians develop expertise in finding it, advocacy – making govt. accountable

Watchdogs – notice when things disappear, inform processes of creating;
Desire to keep independence for purposes of accountability;
Develop skills in discerning what's real, what's propaganda

Supporting public services role of libraries through research assistance, informing public of availability of information, enhancing outreach to public, preservation

Serve public by providing expertise to assist people to find information & will influence policy to assure free and lasting access

Providing leadership in technological transitions and the provision of subject expertise

Enduring network/community to support this latest transition