Library Rules and Regulations:  
Existing Situation and Global Experience  

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The Artful Plan:

- a short introduction;
- an overview of main ideas of guidelines and manifestoes for library service adaptation to the needs of society;
- a review of existing library rules and regulations;
- group discussion.
Where do we begin?

“May all the gods of heaven and earth curse anyone who breaks, defaces, or removes this tablet with a curse that cannot be relieved, terrible and merciless as long as he lives…”

(Library of Ashurbanipal, 7th century BC)
The key documents of our era:

- The IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto;
- The Public Library Service: IFLA/UNESCO Guidelines for Development;
- The IFLA Internet Manifesto;
- The IFLA/UNESCO Internet Manifesto Guidelines.
The IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto

- The public library is the local centre of information, making all kinds of knowledge and information readily available to its users.

- Collection and services should not be subject to any form of ideological, political or religious censorship, nor commercial pressures.
The public library service must be **fully accessible** to all its potential users.

Services must be able to adjust and develop to **reflect changes in society**...
"...The policies and procedures of the library should be based on the needs and convenience of the users and not for the convenience of the organization and its staff".
The IFLA Internet Manifesto

- Intellectual freedom is the right of every individual both to hold and express opinions and to seek and receive information.
- Barriers to the flow of information should be removed.
- Libraries and information services should support the right of users to seek information of their choice.
Freedom of access to information is the right of citizens to not only express any views, but also to have access to the fullest range of views expressed.

In libraries this means providing access to ideas that librarians might not agree with or find personally offensive.
It is all about legislation

“The digital era has not changed the nature of legal issues but has highlighted them”.

(I. Giannattasio)
Public space is essential

- Libraries were, *are, will be* [?] treasuries of knowledge – language, culture, history.
- Stylish library could attract people visit the library once, but if the library isn’t *cool and welcoming place* it will remain only a stylish building.
Rules were analyzed...
List of the libraries

- National Library of Sweden
- National Library of Finland
- National Library of Greece
- National Central Library in Rome (Italy)
- London Public Library
- National Library of Ireland
- National Library of Belarus
- National Library of Bulgaria (St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library)
- National Library of the Czech Republic
- Austrian National Library
- National Library of Turkey
- Biblioteca Nacional de la Republica Argentina
- Biblioteca de la Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso (Chile)
- Hamilton Public Library (Canada)
- Seattle Public Library (USA)
- Biblioteca Ludwig von Mises (Guatemala)
- La Biblioteca Universitaria “Jose Coronel Urtecho” de la Universidad Centroamericana (Nicaragua)
- National Library of China
- Singapore Polytechnic Library
- State Library of South Australia
- National Library of New Zealand
- Biblioteca Alexandrina (Egypt)
Categories of restrictions

- Users’ age, library cards
- Users’ appearance, health and hygiene
- Users’ stuff
- Users’ behavior
  - in general
  - using library units
  - using the Internet and computers
  - using stuff
It is time to work in groups 😊
Instructions

- 20 min + 10 min (by your request)
- Evaluating 20 restrictions:
  - ★ - STRONGLY DISAGREE;
  - ★★ - DISAGREE
  - ★★★ - NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE;
  - ★★★★ - AGREE
  - ★★★★★ - STRONGLY AGREE.
- ~ 10 min your opinion/comments
  - | | summarizing results
- Result presentation
Workshop Results
children under ... years library attendance ★11

must return borrowed materials personally ★12

fines for each overdue item per each day ★11

being in the library barefoot, without a shirt, with very short dresses, skirts or shorts ★12

wearing T-shirts with objectionable or obscene words ★10
technical devices (cameras etc.) ★9
food (chewing gum, candies) and beverages ★11
talking on mobile phone, using pagers ★11
using pens, markers, highlighters, sharp instruments, staplers, correction fluids, glue ★7
any activity other than reading and searching for information is not allowed★4
loud talking, group studying or banging on computer keyboards… ★10

stalking, staring, lurking ★10

lying down or sleeping [on couch, seat etc.] ★9

using restrooms for bathing, doing laundry, or changing clothes ★15

moving Library furniture ★9
viewing, downloading, printing and circulating of undesirable materials ★17/18

using external equipment and portable storage media, saving files to HDD ★12

chatting, playing games, accessing e-mail sites, downloading [any] software ★7
using Internet for political activity ★9

using AV facilities to watch materials not owned by the library ★10
TOP 3 (not so undesirable)

1) Viewing, downloading, printing and circulating of undesirable materials ★17/18

2) Using restrooms for bathing, doing laundry, or changing clothes ★15

3) Using external equipment and portable storage media, saving files to HDD; must return borrowed materials personally; being in the library barefoot, without a shirt, with very short dresses, skirts or shorts ★12
AntiTOP 3 (undesirable)

1) Any activity other than reading and searching for information is not allowed ★4

2) Chatting, playing games, accessing e-mail sites, downloading [any] software ★7

3) Using pens, markers, highlighters, sharp instruments, staplers, correction fluids, glue ★7
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