WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO DO THE RIGHT THING?

Engaging with Ethics in Curatorial Decision-Making

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Curatorial Ethics Survey

Objectives

- Assess the presence of written ethical guidelines and/or training to help navigate ethical issues
- Identify the most commonly encountered ethical issues in collections curation and management

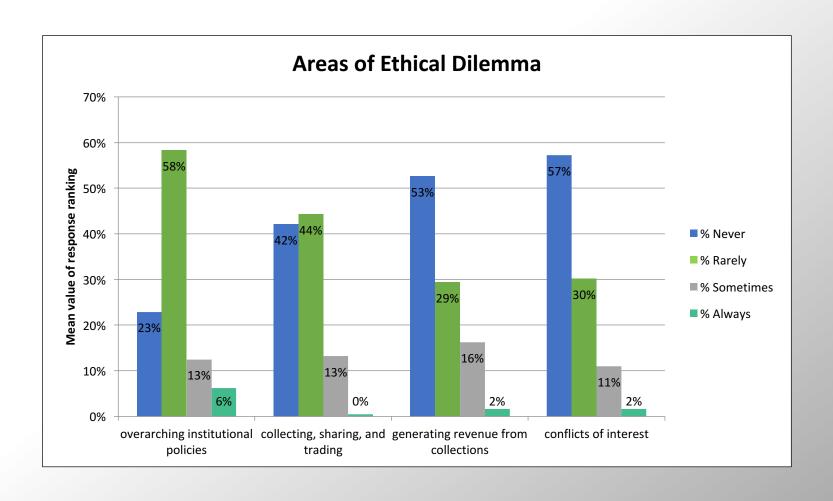
Outcomes

- 57 total responses, with a 56% completion rate
- Quantitative data gathered through yes/no and rating scale questions
- Supporting qualitative data gathered through optional openended questions

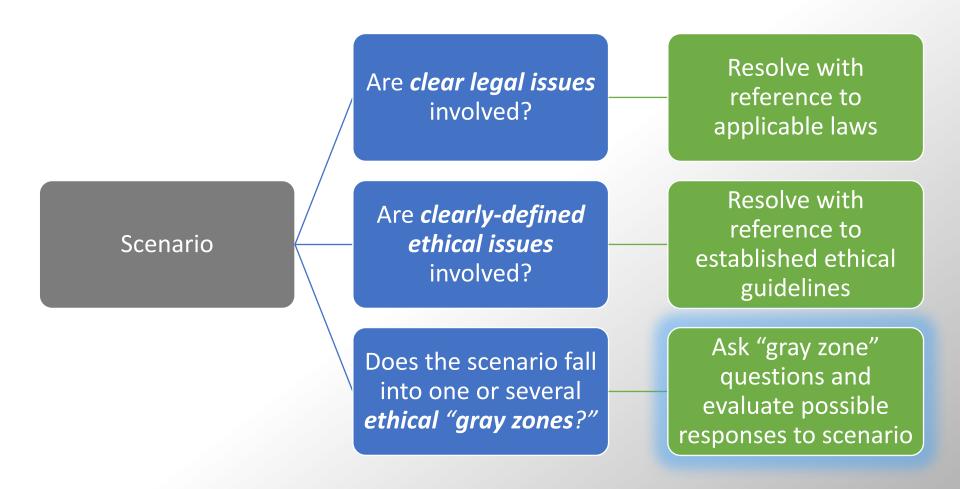


Curatorial Ethics Survey

Participants were asked to identify areas of curatorial and collections management work where ethical concerns were most likely to arise in their workplace.



Evaluating Ethical Scenarios: First Steps



Adapted with permission from "The Struggle is Real: A Game Plan for Ethical Conundrums," presented at the AAM 2016 Annual Conference, Washington, DC, 5/26/2016

Ethical "Gray Zone" Analysis

First-Level Analysis	The "Smell Test"	Plan and Evaluate Possible Actions
Could this cause harm?	Is there transparency?	What actions could be taken to resolve the issue?
Are issues of justice, rights, or the common good involved?	Is there any personal benefit to staff, officers, board members, or their families?	What are potential repercussions for each action – for you, the garden, and the public?
Consider potential harm to the institution, the public, stakeholders, and the profession	Public perception? Are you already planning defenses?	and the public: