

# Ethical Issues in Collections Management

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### **A good introductory essay to ethics in museums:**

Tristram Besterman, "Museum Ethics," in **Part V. Globalization, Profession, Practice of A Companion to Museum Studies**, Sharon Macdonald, editor, London: Blackwell, 2006, pp. 431-441.

### **For excellent coverage of legal issues relating to museums and museum collections:**

Marie C. Malaro and Ildiko Pogány DeAngelis, **A Legal Primer on Managing Museum Collections**, Third Edition, Washington, DC: Smithsonian, 2012.

John Simmons, **Things Great and Small: Collections Management Policies**, Washington, D.C.: AAM, 2006.

Sally Yerkovich, **A Practical Guide to Museum Ethics**, New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016.

### **Professional Codes of Ethics (partial list)**

**American Association of Museums** <http://www.aam-us.org/resources/ethics-standards-and-best-practices/code-of-ethics>

**International Council of Museums** <http://icom.museum/the-vision/code-of-ethics/>

**Association of Art Museum Directors**, <https://aamd.org/standards-and-practices> see:  
**Professional Practices in Art Museums**

**American Association of State and Local History Statement of Professional Standards and Ethics** <http://resource.aaslh.org/view/aaslh-statement-of-professional-standards-and-ethics/>



**Standards for Professional Practice in Children’s Museums** [http://childrensmuseums.org/images/Library/Standards\\_for\\_Professional\\_Practice\\_in\\_Childrens\\_Museums.pdf](http://childrensmuseums.org/images/Library/Standards_for_Professional_Practice_in_Childrens_Museums.pdf)

**Code of Ethics for Registrars** <http://www.rcaam.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/CodeofEthicsforRegistrars.pdf>

**Code of Ethics for Curators** <http://www.aam-us.org/docs/continuum/curcomethics.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

**American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works** [http://www.conservation-us.org/our-organizations/association-\(aic\)/governance/code-of-ethics-and-guidelines-for-practice#.WPVzZxiZMTF](http://www.conservation-us.org/our-organizations/association-(aic)/governance/code-of-ethics-and-guidelines-for-practice#.WPVzZxiZMTF)

**Association of Zoos and Aquariums** <https://www.aza.org/code-of-ethics>

**Canadian Museums Association** <http://www.museums.ca/uploaded/web/docs/ethicsguidelines.pdf>

Lists of additional **Codes of Ethics** (<http://www.museumethics.org/links-to-resources-2/>) and **Standards for Professional Practices** (<http://www.museumethics.org/standards-for-professional-practice/>) may be found on the **Institute of Museum Ethics** (<http://www.museumethics.org>) website under Resources

## **Additional materials**

**Useful ethics case studies from the United Kingdom** <https://www.museumsassociation.org/ethics/09022016-ethics-case-studies>

**Direct Care of Collections: Ethics, Guidelines and Recommendations** <http://aam-us.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/direct-care-of-collections-ethics-guidelines-and-recommendations-pdf.pdf?sfvrsn=8>

## **Related C2C Care Webinars**

**Introduction to Legal Issues in Collections Management (April 12, 2017)** <https://www.connectingtocollections.org/intro-legal-issues-in-collections-management/>

**The Deaccessioning Dilemma: Laws, Ethics, and Actions (November 19, 2015)** [https://www.connectingtocollections.org/the\\_deaccessioning\\_dilemma\\_laws\\_ethics\\_and\\_actions/](https://www.connectingtocollections.org/the_deaccessioning_dilemma_laws_ethics_and_actions/)

