

The background is a dark blue gradient with abstract white and light blue circular patterns. On the left side, there is a large circular scale with tick marks and numbers ranging from 140 to 260. Several smaller circles with arrows and dashed lines are scattered across the background, suggesting a technical or scientific theme.

ETHICAL ISSUES IN PARLIAMETARY RESEARCH & LIBRARIES

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*THIS PRESENTATION DOES NOT REFER TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BUT TO
PARLIAMETARY RESEARCH & LIBRARY SERVICES AS A WHOLE; IT REFLECTS THE
PERSONAL VIEW OF THE AUTHOR AND DOES NOT REPRESENT THE VIEW OF THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT*

WHY ARE ETHICAL ISSUES IMPORTANT?

- How parliamentary research services and libraries handle ethical issues affects e.g.
 - Service reputation
 - Product quality and authority
 - **Value of products and services**
- Relations with clients, staff, suppliers...and the ability of the service to perform in future
- For you and your staff:
 - Professional reputation
 - Position as a public servant
 - Career and possibly even health

WHAT GUIDANCE EXISTS?

- There is no direct reference to “ethics” in either the ‘Guidelines for legislative libraries’ or ‘Guidelines for parliamentary research services’
- There are generic ethical frameworks for e.g.
 - Library services
 - Academic/professional research in general
 - Public servants/officials of parliament
 - Procurement (which concerns especially contracted research)
 - Management of people etc.
- Useful but are they precise enough/comprehensive for our situation?

ETHICS IN INNOVATION & CHANGE, AND EVERYDAY

- New products – what ethical issues do they raise? How is that assessed?
- New clients
- New staff – how do we prepare them to handle issues of ethics?
- Service management following regime change
- Research production & information purchasing choices
- Clients may not find a balanced research product useful
- Client confidentiality

SOME DILEMMAS

- Potentially conflicts between
 - Our values and ethics
 - Our professional/personal values/ethics *and* client values.
 - Responsibility to e.g. our manager, the service, clients, the institution, democracy/constitution, citizens
- How do we resolve those conflicts?
- Must be practical – satisficing, a ‘good enough’ solution
- But also beware the ‘slippery slope’

The background features a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white stars. Overlaid on this are several technical diagrams in a lighter blue color. These include circular gauges with numerical scales (e.g., 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260), concentric circles, and curved arrows indicating motion or flow. The diagrams are semi-transparent and scattered across the left and top portions of the frame.

THANK YOU!

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