THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF LIBRARY PRIVACY

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Intellectual privacy:
protection from surveillance or interference when we are engaged in the processes of generating ideas – thinking, reading, and speaking with confidantes.
Why is privacy so important in libraries?
Student accused of being a terrorist for reading book on terrorism

Staffordshire University apologises after counter-terrorism student Mohammed Umar Farooq was questioned under Prevent anti-extremism initiative

A postgraduate student of counter-terrorism was falsely accused of being a terrorist after an official at Staffordshire University had spotted him reading a textbook entitled Terrorism Studies in the college library.
Privacy in the Library

“In a library (physical or virtual), the right to privacy is the right to open inquiry without having the subject of one’s interest examined or scrutinized by others.”

Privacy: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights
Confidentiality in the Library

“Confidentiality exists when a library is in possession of personally identifiable information about users and keeps that information private on their behalf.”

Privacy: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights
The Ethical Obligation to Protect Both Privacy and Confidentiality

“We protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted.”

*Article III, ALA Code of Ethics*
Legal Foundations for Privacy and Confidentiality

- First Amendment
- Fourth Amendment
- State Library Confidentiality Statutes
Mr. Kenneth Sutton
Systems and Telecommunication Manager
Library Connection, Inc.
599 Mainwood Avenue
Windsor, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Sutton:

Under the authority of Executive Order 12333, dated December 4, 1981, and pursuant to Title 18, United States Code (U.S.C.), Section 2709 (as amended, October 26, 2001), you are hereby directed to provide to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) any and all subscriber information, billing information and access logs of any person or entity related to the following:

IP Address: 216.47.180.118, Date: 02/15/2006, Time: 16:00 to 16:45 (PM) EST

In accordance with Title 18, U.S.C., Section 2709(b), I certify that the information sought is relevant to an authorized investigation to protect against international terrorism or clandestine intelligence activities, and that such an investigation of a United States person is not conducted solely on the basis of activities protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

You are further advised that Title 18, U.S.C., Section 2709(c), prohibits any officer, employee or agent of yours from disclosing to any person that the FBI has sought or obtained access to information or records under these provisions.

Please provide records responsive to this request personally to a representative of this office. Originals of the records are requested, if available. Any records provided should be directed only to the New Haven field office. Due to security concerns, copies will not be provided.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Wolf
Special Agent in Charge
The FBI has not been here

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PRIVACYREVOLUTION.ORG

THE Nation

NOT YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S LIBRARIAN

Fighting Big Brother in the Digital Age

Zizi Papoulias
Social Media as “user service enhancement”
But why should I care when patrons are sharing everything online?
What Do Patrons Say?

86% of internet users have taken steps online to remove or mask their digital footprints—ranging from clearing cookies to encrypting their email.

55% of internet users have taken steps to avoid observation by specific people, organizations, or the government.

Anonymity, Privacy, and Security Online
Pew Internet and American Life Project
What Do Patrons Say?

61% of adults “disagree” or “strongly disagree” with the statement:
“I appreciate that online services are more efficient because of the increased access they have to my personal data.”

At the same time, 55% “agree” or “strongly agree” with the statement:
“I am willing to share some information about myself with companies in order to use online services for free.”

*Public Perceptions of Privacy and Security in the Post-Snowden Era*
*Pew Internet and American Life Project*
What Do Patrons Say?

64% of respondents say they would be interested in personalized online accounts that provide customized recommendations for books and services based on their past library activity, similar to the recommendations offered by commercial sites like Amazon.

63% of respondents say they would be likely to use a library cell phone app that would allow them to access and use library services from their phone.

Library Services in the Digital Age
Pew Internet and American Life Project
Privacy is the claim of individuals, groups, or institutions to determine for themselves when, how, and to what extent information about them is communicated to others.

Privacy Now Means Many Things

Confidentiality

Freedom from surveillance

+ Limits on Information Use

+ Personal choice and control
Library Privacy in the Digital Age

Affirm the role of the library in protecting users’ privacy

Adopt and use Fair Information Practice Principles (FIPPs)

Adopt and use encryption standards

Require vendors to adhere to the same privacy and record retention standards used by libraries.
Library Privacy in the Digital Age

Commit to providing/obtaining users’ truly informed consent to the collection and use of their personal data and information

Train and educate librarians and users alike about privacy rights and best practices online and off to preserve confidentiality of personal information
Resources


Questions?
Comments?

Need more info?

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