

American Library Association Privacy Policies and Statements
Prepared
by
Nancy Kranich
Chair, ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee

*The American Library Association has developed policies, guidelines,
and resources to assist librarians in preserving privacy and
confidentiality for library users.*

Basic Statements

Library Bill of Rights (1948, amended 1961, 1980, reaffirmed 1996;
<http://www.ala.org/oif/policies/librarybillrights>)

Freedom to Read Statement (1953; rev. 1972, 1991, 2000;
<http://www.ala.org/oif/policies/freedomtoread>)

Code of Ethics (rev. 1995; <http://www.ala.org/oif/policies/codeofethics>)

Freedom to View Statement (1990; <http://www.ala.org/oif/policies/freedomtoview>)

Library Principles for a Networked World
(http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Our_Association/Offices/ALA_Washington/Publications16/principles.pdf)

Privacy and Confidentiality Policies and Procedures

Policy on Confidentiality of Library Records (1971; rev. 1975, 1986;
http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=Other_Policies_and_Guidelines&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=13084)

Privacy: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights (2002;
http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Our_Association/Offices/Intellectual_Freedom3/Statements_and_Policies/Intellectual_Freedom2/Interpretations/privacyinterpretation.pdf)

Privacy Resources for Librarians, Library Users, and Families (last updated 2002;
http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Our_Association/Offices/Intellectual_Freedom3/Intellectual_Freedom_Issues/Related_Links6/Privacy_Resources_for_Librarians,_Library_Users,_and_Families.htm)

Questions and Answers on Privacy and Confidentiality (2003;
http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Our_Association/Offices/Intellectual_Freedom3/Statements_and_Policies/Intellectual_Freedom2/Interpretations/Questions_and_Answers_on_Privacy_and_Confidentiality.htm)

Privacy and Confidentiality

(http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Our_Association/Offices/Intellectual_Freedom3/Intellectual_Freedom_Issues/Privacy_and_Confidentiality.htm)

American Library Association Privacy Policies and Statements (August 2003; last updated 9/18/03).

(http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=Related_Links6&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=43554)

Suggested Procedures for Implementing Policy on Confidentiality of Library Records (1983; rev. 1988;

http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Our_Association/Offices/Intellectual_Freedom3/Statements_and_Policies/Other_Policies_and_Guidelines/Suggested_Procedures_for_Implementing_Policy_on_Confidentiality_of_Library_Records.htm)

Developing a Confidentiality Policy (from ALA, *Intellectual Freedom Manual*, 6th edition, (Chicago, IL: American Library Association, Office for Intellectual Freedom 2002): 347–355;

(http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=Dealing_with_Challenges&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=11165)

Policy concerning Confidentiality of Personally Identifiable Information about Library Users (1991;

http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=Other_Policies_and_Guidelines&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=13087)

AASL Position Statement on the Confidentiality of Library Records;

http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/AASL/Professional_Tools10/Position_Statements/AASL_Position_Statement_on_the_Confidentiality_of_Library_Records.htm

ALA Task Force on Privacy and Confidentiality in the Electronic Environment Final Report (July 2000;

http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/LITA/LITA_Resources_and_Services/ALA_Task_Force_on_Privacy_and_Confidentiality_in_the_Electronic_Environment.htm)

Appendix addressing new technologies related to: Confidentiality of Library Records; Usage Tracking; Security Issues; Institutional Concerns and Developments; Library Practices; Commercial Applications

(http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/LITA/LITA_Resources_and_Services/ALA_Task_Force_on_Privacy_and_Confidentiality/Appendix.htm)

The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act;
([http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Our_Association/Offices/ALA_Washington/Issues2/Civil_Liberties,_Intellectual_Freedom,_Privacy/Childrens_Online_Privacy_Protection_Act_\(COPPA\)/Default2434.htm](http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Our_Association/Offices/ALA_Washington/Issues2/Civil_Liberties,_Intellectual_Freedom,_Privacy/Childrens_Online_Privacy_Protection_Act_(COPPA)/Default2434.htm))

Privacy Legislation

(http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Our_Association/Offices/ALA_Washington/Issues2/Civil_Liberties,_Intellectual_Freedom,_Privacy/Privacy/Privacy_Related_Legislation.htm)

Libraries and The Patriot Act Legislation

(http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Our_Association/Offices/ALA_Washington/Issues2/Civil_Liberties,_Intellectual_Freedom,_Privacy/The_USA_Patriot_Act_and_Libraries/Default2437.htm)

State Privacy Laws regarding Library Records

(http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=State_IFC_in_Action&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=14773)

Policies and Statements about the Infringement of Users' Privacy Rights

USA Patriot Act (<http://www.ala.org/oif/ifissues/usapatriotact>)

“Resolution on the USA Patriot Act and Related Measures That Infringe on the Rights of Library Users” (January 2003;

http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=IF_Resolutions&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=11891)

State Chapter Resolutions,

(http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=State_IFC_in_Action&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=25858)

“Resolution on Security and Access to Government Information,” (June 25, 2003;

http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=Related_Links6&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=39337)

“Resolution Reaffirming the Principles of Intellectual Freedom in the Aftermath of the Terrorist Attacks,” (January 23, 2002;

http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=IF_Resolutions&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=21668)

“Resolution on the Terrorism Information Awareness Program,” (June 25, 2003;

http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=Related_Links6&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=39339)

The USA Patriot Act in the Library

(http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Our_Association/Offices/Intellectual_Freedom3/Intellectual_Freedom_Issues/The_USA_Patriot_Act_in_the_Library.htm)

Confidentiality and Coping with Law Enforcement Inquiries: Guidelines for the Library and its Staff (last updated 2002;

http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=Intellectual_Freedom_Issues&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=21654)

FBI in Your Library

(http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Our_Association/Offices/Intellectual_Freedom3/Intellectual_Freedom_Issues/FBI_in_Your_Library.htm)

Guidelines for Librarians on the USA PATRIOT Act: What to do before, during and after a “knock at the door?” (January 19, 2002;

http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Our_Association/Offices/ALA_Washington/Issues2/Civil_Liberties,_Intellectual_Freedom,_Privacy/The_USA_Patriot_Act_and_Libraries/patstep.pdf)

Surveillance in America

http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=Intellectual_Freedom_Issues&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=34291

Terrorism Information and Prevention System (TIPS)

(http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=Intellectual_Freedom_Issues&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=2432)

Prepared by Nancy Kranich

Chair, ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee

Last updated 9/18/03