



Library Data

Ethics and privacy considerations

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<http://saramannheimer.com/talks/library-data-ethics>

Today's talk

Library values

Ethics regulation

Uses of student data

Library privacy guidelines

Key takeaways



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Library values

Privacy
+
Confidentiality

Improved services
+
Assessment

Privacy
+
Confidentiality



*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.***

— ALA Bill of Rights,
Interpretation of Privacy

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/privacy>



*The relationship between the library and the user is one of **confidentiality** and librarians and other information workers will take appropriate measures to **ensure that user data is not shared beyond the original transaction.***

— IFLA Code of Ethics

Garcia-Febo L, Hustad A, Rösch H, Sturges P, Vallotton A (FAIFE working group) (2016) IFLA Code of Ethics for Librarians and other Information Workers <https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/11092>

Improved services
+
Assessment

Hinchcliffe & Asher

1. Given the increased emphasis on analytics in higher education, it is not a matter of *if* libraries will participate in data-driven assessment, it is a matter of *how*.
2. Library user data can help libraries develop high-quality services.
3. Libraries already collect identifiable user data and enable collection of that user data by third-parties.
4. User identifiers are necessary to meaningfully relate library user data to other institutional data.
5. It is difficult to predict future uses of collected data.

Hinchcliffe LJ, Asher A (2014) Analytics and Privacy: A Proposed Framework for Negotiating Service and Value Boundaries. CNI Fall 2014 Membership Meeting.. <https://vimeo.com/115088902>



*With the collection and retention of data comes **institutional responsibility** to protect it effectively.*

— CNI Report

Privacy in the age of analytics: report of a CNI Executive Roundtable held April 13, 2015. Published August 2016. <https://www.cni.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/CNI-privacy-analytics-ERreport.pdf>



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More and more data is being held externally by vendors and other partners.

— CNI Report

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Libraries have an ethical obligation—and in some cases a legal obligation—to preserve users' privacy and to prevent any unauthorized collection, use, or disclosure of library users' data.

— NISO Privacy Principles

Ayala D, Brantley P, Breeding M, Carpenter T, Hellman E, Hinchliffe L, Lagace N, Tijerina B, Zimmer M (2015) NISO Consensus Principles on User's Digital Privacy in Library, Publisher, and Software-Provider Systems (NISO Privacy Principles)
http://www.niso.org/apps/group_public/download.php/16064/NISO%20Privacy%20Principles.pdf



Libraries have an ethical obligation—and in some cases a legal obligation—to preserve users' privacy and to prevent any unauthorized collection, use, or disclosure of library users' data.

Publishers and software-providers, which operate through and for the library and its users, share in this ongoing ethical responsibility.

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Uses of student data

Uses of student data

Ithaca +
SR and
Stanford



Research



Assessment



Improved services

Alamuddin R, Brown J, Kurzwell M (2016) Student Data in the Digital Era
An Overview of Current Practices. Ithaca S + R. <https://doi.org/10.18665/sr.283890>

Uses of
student
data

Research



Research

“Student data are used to conduct empirical studies designed to advance knowledge in the field.”

Uses of
student
data

Assessment



Assessment

“Student data are used to report on [student] educational experiences and achievements to internal and external audiences.”

Uses of
student
data

Improved
Services



Improved services

“Student data are used to inform changes in institutional practices, programs, or policies, in order to improve student learning and support.”



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Ethics regulation

Ethics regulation

IRB

Is it human subjects data?

Is it research?

Ethics regulation

IRB

Is it human subjects data?

Ethics regulation

IRB

Is it human subjects data?

“Most data represent or impact people”

(Zook et al)

Zook, M., Barocas, S., Crawford, K., Keller, E., Gangadharan, S. P., Goodman, A., ... & Nelson, A. (2017). Ten simple rules for responsible big data research. PLOS Computational Biology, 13(3), e1005399. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1005399>

Ethics
regulation

IRB

Is it research?

Ethics regulation

IRB

Is it research?

“A systematic investigation...designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge” (Common Rule)

Federal policy for the protection of human subjects ("Common Rule") (1991).
<http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/regulations/common-rule>

Ethics regulation

IRB

*“A systematic investigation...**designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge**”*

- ✔ **IRB required** for publishing or presenting
- ✘ **IRB not required** for internal assessment



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Library privacy guidelines

Privacy guidelines for libraries

Electronic Frontier Foundation guidelines

Data collection: Limit collection and retention of user information.

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/12/librarians-act-now-protect-your-users-its-too-late>

Privacy guidelines for libraries

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Data collection: Limit collection and retention of user information.

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Web security: Use HTTPS for your website, push vendors to do the same. Secure library computer browsers.

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New Library Privacy Guidelines offer strategies for protecting patron data in the digital environment

For Immediate Release
Mon, 08/01/2016

CHICAGO — The American Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee has approved four new library privacy guidelines that outline strategies and best practices for protecting patron privacy in the digital environment. The guidelines address online privacy and data security and are intended to assist librarians, libraries, schools and vendors in developing policies and procedures that safeguard library users' data. The guidelines include:

- [Library Privacy Guidelines for Public Access Computers and Networks](#)
- [Library Privacy Guidelines for Library Websites, OPACs, and Discovery Services](#)
- [Library Privacy Guidelines for Library Management Systems](#)
- [Library Privacy Guidelines for Data Exchange Between Networked Devices and Services](#)

<http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2016/08/new-library-privacy-guidelines-offer-strategies-protecting-patron-data>

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Third-party systems: Be aware of and minimize third-party data sharing.

Transparency and education: Set clear user privacy policies. Obtain informed consent from users. Educate users and librarians about data and privacy. Provide users with access to their own data.

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Transparency and education: Set clear user privacy policies. Obtain informed consent from users. Educate users and librarians about data and privacy. Provide users with access to their own data.

Data management: Ensure data integrity, security, and encryption.

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Key takeaways

Privacy
+
Confidentiality

Improved services
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Assessment

Data collection

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Government requests

Data collection

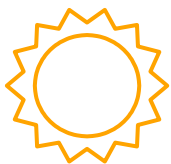
Government requests

Third-party systems

Data collection
Government requests
Third-party systems
Transparency and education

Data collection
Government requests
Third-party systems
Transparency and education
Web security

Data collection
Government requests
Third-party systems
Transparency and education
Web security
Data management



Thank you!

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