

Library Privacy Liaisons (LPL)
Report on LPL Charge and Goals and Objectives
For 2005/2006

Library Privacy Liaisons (LPL) is ending its third year. While our first two years were very productive and instructive, the third year has been a bit bumpy. If it is possible to hit a sophomore slump totally out of order, we did it. However, I feel this is in part the fault of our overly ambitious charge from last year.

Two of our three goals were easily accomplished. We continued to keep the LPL web site current. We also continued with our ongoing need to “Oversee UC Library staff and user education in privacy issues as they relate to the UC Libraries.” In addition we gained new members as others moved on to different work.

Where we hit the wall was with our goal to “Review the University Records Management Disposition Schedule to determine what library records are currently covered in the schedule and what library records should be included which are not in the schedule.” We were to consult with the UC Archivists Council regarding issues related to library records. Propose recommendations to SOPAG for the revision of the disposition of library records in light of current legislation and the findings of the SOPAG Privacy Task Force.

The above goal is a worthy task to accomplish. But we were stymied by the amount of work, the level of archival expertise needed, and the indirect connection to privacy. In the end, SOPAG allowed us to squirm out of this task. For this we are thankful and a bit chagrined.

Coming into our third year we bantered about what goals we could accomplish and what purposes we could serve. We considered the arena of copyright and intellectual property. UC has no expert center that can develop policy or support staff’s questions. Should LPL be this group? After a long conversation we came to terms with the fact that copyright and intellectual properties are hugely specialized areas that need an expertise that does not currently live in LPL. If we reconfigured our membership and put less focus on privacy we could address some of these issues. That would, however, be a different TF and if this group is needed it should be formed.

We also considered disbanding. However, we feel strongly that our E-mail conversations, campus privacy policy issues, and ongoing security concerns need an involved representative on each campus. If we downgraded our committee to ad hoc status we risk losing what subject knowledge and sharpness we have honed. If we do not put a priority on privacy and security and expect time and energy to be directed towards a very important issue, we will have resident non-experts who have little expertise when we may need it.

Therefore we feel the Charge as first imagined continues to fulfill the ongoing needs and current direction of the group. Additionally, we feel it is imperative for our committee to write in the expectation that we interact with every other SOPAG committee in addressing the privacy issues inherent in their work. (see goal #1 below).

Privacy is a component of all of the work we do from digital reference to ILS records. We would like the opportunity to insinuate ourselves more deeply into all aspects of our libraries, possibly stretching out to campus groups.

Charge

The Library Privacy Liaisons (LPL) has the overall responsibility for addressing privacy issues as they relate to the University of California Libraries. This responsibility includes keeping abreast of the legal and policy developments in Federal and State law, the policies of the American Library Association, and relevant University of California policies and practices, and, on the basis of these developments, recommend library policies as needed to protect the privacy rights of library patrons and to keep staff and patrons informed of these rights.

One member from each campus and the CDL should be designated as Privacy Liaison by the University Librarian to serve on LPL. The Privacy Liaison will be responsible for overseeing the campus privacy policies and compliance with same. This individual should keep up with the ever-changing privacy environment as it affects libraries and library records, and keep campus staff informed about privacy issues. The LPL is an all campus group reporting to SOPAG. The Chair is selected by the membership for a two-year term.

Goals and Objectives for 2006/2007

- 1) Our focus is liaisoning – therefore more of an onus on interacting with other groups. We need to information gather as to what issues we share and then decide if we need to educate, share info, what would we prioritize? What is the critical mass? Service customization, user services, etc. Survey for need and then act where needed.
- 2) Continuing education.
- 3) USA PATRIOT Act and basic campus/library privacy issues.

Status: Educating the UC Library staff and our users is an ongoing and continuing activity. There have been presentations on most campuses, some involvement in larger campus groups, additions to web sites, and monitoring of library practices in regards to privacy. There have been and will continue to be: ongoing communications, library and campus-wide groups where LPL members are active members, and special events where we continue to speak out on privacy issues and educate our audiences.