

**Library Privacy Liaisons (LPL)  
Annual Report for 2005/2006  
Prepared by Eric Scott, LPL Chair**

Library Privacy Liaisons (LPL) is completing its fourth year as an All-Campus Group. Eric Scott (Merced) assumed the LPL Chair from Amy Kautzman (UCB) who chaired the group from inception (2003-2005). After previously intense activity, the 2005/2006 LPL Goals and Objectives were relatively modest. While progress has been made toward achieving these goals and objectives, a significant portion remains to be accomplished. Individually, members have been very active locally providing privacy training, advising at the campus-wide level on privacy issues and maintaining awareness of privacy issues.

**Charge**

The Library Privacy Liaisons (LPL) have 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 2005/2006**

1. Our focus is liaisoning – this year we propose putting an onus on interacting with other SOPAG groups. LPL intends to survey the needs of the ACGs. What current work and/or projects have a privacy component? Conversations with HOTS, HOPS, etc. will help us to educate the ACGs about infusing privacy concerns into all applicable projects.

Progress: This objective was only partially met during 2006. While ACGs and other groups were working on various projects, few of these projects touched on areas where privacy was a significant concern. The BSTF report was the most significant of these projects and LPL provided only a brief response because a clear nod to privacy concerns was included in the final report thanks to Amy Kautzman's membership on the BSTF.

2. USA PATRIOT Act and basic campus/library privacy issues.  
Continuing privacy education throughout the system for students, staff, and librarians. 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, involvement in 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.
  - a) Each Library Privacy Liaison is expected to send out a reminder to library staff that reiterates local privacy policy, the URL of the LPL page and local web pages, and to consider holding local training sessions for new employees or those in need of a brush up.

Progress: The USA Patriot Act was renewed by the UC Congress in March, 2006. LPL members monitored the legislative process and participated in an ongoing group email dialogue about the significance of developments in the wording of the legislation. Members continued to interact at the campus level providing advice, expertise, and training to their respective campus communities.

### **Future Directions for LPL**

Each of the areas listed below will continue to be of interest in relation to privacy. LPL continues to provide a focal point of knowledge, expertise and focus for privacy issues in these areas and others. LPL will continue to monitor and advise on all of these and any others that may arise.

### **Systemwide Coordination of Privacy**

LPL provides a needed focal point for discussion and expertise regarding privacy issues, legislation, and education at the campus and systemwide levels. LPL possesses one of the most diverse memberships of any systemwide advisory group, bringing together perspectives from virtually all areas of the library organization.

### **BSTF Report**

Privacy was represented on the Bibliographic Services Task Force by Amy Kautzman, LPL-UCB and former LPL Chair (2002-2005). LPL discussed the response via email and concluded that a lengthy response to the BSTF Report was not necessary since privacy considerations were included where appropriate in the report. LPL provided a brief memorandum supporting the overall tone of the BSTF report and expressed hope that privacy would continue to be a factor in the process of implementing various aspects of the BSTF recommendations.

### **LTAG Next Decade**

The LTAG Next Decade report recommends systemwide single login/interface and increased facility of users to access information from portable devices. Each of these raises concerns about privacy and exposure of sensitive personal information. As with the recommendations contained in the BSTF report, LTAG Next Decade predictions support the continuing need for a group that deals specifically with privacy.

### **USA Patriot Act**

The USA Patriot Act was renewed by the US Congress in March, 2006. While the renewed act contained modified language intended to provide better protections for libraries and users, American Library Association analysis concludes that these protections are illusory and lacks meaningful reforms supported by ALA. Therefore, privacy of library users is still in jeopardy in this context. Legal challenges have already occurred (Doe vs. Gonzalez), but this does not mean that agencies of the Federal Government will continue not attempt to use the powers in the USA Patriot Act in ways that potentially violate privacy.

### **RFID**

RFID is an emerging technology that is currently in use on more than one UC campus. This technology has several potentially beneficial uses in the University environment. In libraries, RFID has the potential to enhance user services and actually increase privacy. In other applications, including campus access cards and commercial applications, RFID has the potential to become a threat to personal privacy if not managed properly.