

ALA American Library Association

CHOOSE PRIVACY WEEK VIDEO: A LIBRARIAN'S GUIDE

1. How do you define privacy?

*In the video, many people of different ages and backgrounds talk about what privacy means to them. **Discuss with viewers:** What do you think of when you hear the word privacy? What personal information do you consider private vs. public? Do you believe that boundaries between public and private are changing or are different for younger generations? Consider writing answers or keywords on a whiteboard or flipchart for discussion.*

2. Why does privacy matter to people using libraries? How would you feel if the topics you research in the library or online were made public?

*In the video, librarians explain their commitment to reader privacy and talk about ways it is under threat. **Discuss with viewers:** Do you consider your research topics private? Have you ever looked up sensitive information in libraries or online? As Cory Doctorow asks: if you had to explain to a stranger everything you searched for online in a given month, would there be anything suspicious or that you couldn't fully explain?*

3. What rights does the 4th Amendment to the US Constitution protect?

- Guarantees the right to a jury trial
- Ensures freedom of speech
- Guards against unreasonable search and seizure**
- Assures the right to bear arms

4. Have you ever "googled" your name? What or how much did you find? Were you surprised by anything?

*In the video, Camila Alire looks herself up on Google and is surprised by the number of results – and concerned about “what’s in there.” **Discuss with viewers:** How much information about you is online? How do you deal with inaccurate information about you online? How do you feel about that information being used by college admissions officers, hiring managers, and others? Do you believe, as Neil Gaiman says, that there are some things you just shouldn't Google, that shouldn't be out there? Consider visiting www.spokeo.com or other data aggregator sites as examples in addition to Google.*

5. To what extent do you worry about the following privacy invasions?

Internet stalking, bullying, or harassment

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not at all concerned

Public disclosure of photos or details about your life

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not at all concerned

Identity theft or credit card fraud

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not at all concerned

Government surveillance of your behavior

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not at all concerned

Corporate distribution of your personal information

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not at all concerned

Discuss with viewers: *Why are you concerned about these privacy abuses? How do you protect yourself against them? Have you experienced any of these invasions and, if so, how did you feel?*

6. What law, enacted in 2001, gave U.S. law enforcement agencies greater access to individuals' personal and business records?

*The USA Patriot Act is discussed in the video, in the context of both law enforcement's ability to access library records and librarians' commitment to keeping reading records private. **Discuss with viewers:** What else do you know or think about the Patriot Act? How can or should the government balance individual rights (like privacy) with national security? Do you care if the government knows what you're reading or accessing online?*

7. Imagine a world where everything you ever did was recorded and on the Internet. Would knowing this prevent you from doing certain things? How would it change your choices or actions?

*In the video, Geoffrey Stone says that privacy is part of being a free and autonomous person, and that surveillance can make us less expressive or daring about how we live our lives. **Discuss with viewers:** Do you agree or disagree? In what ways might your life or behavior change? How do Internet tools like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, foursquare, or others already affect your behavior, if at all? Have you read any dystopian fiction (such as 1984, The Trial, Little Brother, or Fahrenheit 451) or seen films (such as Minority Report or The Truman Show) that paint images of such a world? What do you believe is the likelihood of such a future for our country?*

8. After watching the Choose Privacy Week video, what parts or messages from the film did you find most powerful or interesting?

Please consider sharing your viewers' opinions on the video with ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom (email oif@ala.org, visit www.ala.org/oif, follow us at twitter.com/privacyala, or become a fan at www.facebook.com/chooseprivacyweek), in order to improve future Choose Privacy Week resources and programming!