



## MLA-IFC Report, October 10, 2014

The MLA-IFC met on August 26<sup>th</sup> at the Weston Library. The MLA-IFC will meet on October 30<sup>th</sup> at the Weston Library.

1. **MLA Privacy Policy:** We discussed the MLA Privacy Policy, which is dated 2004. It should be posted on the MLA website, but it should first be reviewed in order to determine if it needs to be updated or overhauled. We will continue the discussion at the next IFC meeting. Policy issues identified:

- Should include the policy on our website, as well as a link to the Wild Apricot privacy policy. Suggested that the privacy policy be available as footer and linked from every page on the MLA site.
- Query: Does MLA/Wild Apricot use Google Analytics or other third party analytics? If so, what are those terms of service (ToS)?
- Does it give people a false sense of security and should we include a disclaimer in the policy?

2. **Data mining:** We also discussed data mining/data brokers. Diane Annunziato gave an overview of this issue from the **60 Minutes** feature. Data brokers collect, analyze, package and sell personal data to companies and governments. Because they are the “invisible side of the internet” many people don’t understand that everything they do on the internet is being tracked, monitored and sold for commercial purposes. There are serious implications in that they collect medical info and can sell to employers. The MLA-IFC agreed that there is no dialogue about this coming from the ALA, ACLU, EEF, Fight for the Future. We will continue the discussion and make plans for communication with these organizations.

3. **IFC Clearinghouse:** We voted unanimously to add the Clearinghouse content to the IFC portion of our website.

4. **Conference planning:** MLA-IFC has submitted 2 program proposals to the Conference Committee:

**Connecting the Dots of Internet Freedom: The Future of Free Speech**

**Evan Greer, Campaign Director, Fight for the Future (FFTF)**

**This interactive session will weave together stories and images of current digital activism and resistance to online censorship, surveillance, and corporate power**

grabs. By exploring the root causes and connections between issues like net neutrality, copyright enforcement, and online privacy, we'll paint a picture of why people and groups from across the political spectrum are defying tradition and coming together to defend the Internet as the greatest hope for the future of free speech.

An introduction to fighting surveillance and promoting privacy in libraries.

Alison Macrina, Supervisor of Technology and Information Management at the Watertown Free Public Library and Kade Crockford, Director of the Technology for Liberty Program at the ACLU of Massachusetts.

A program on issues of privacy and surveillance as they relate to libraries, including an introduction to current issues of surveillance and privacy, focusing on government and corporate surveillance. Issues addressed: how privacy rights fit into the greater mission of libraries as democratic institutions committed to intellectual freedom and how surveillance threatens the core values of librarianship defined by the ALA Library Bill of Rights. Alison will discuss and demonstrate some practical tools for online privacy that can be implemented in library PC environments or taught to patrons in classes/one-on-one tech sessions. Copies of the ACLU privacy rights primer for librarians will be distributed.

5. **IFC mission statement:** We voted unanimously to make no changes to our mission statement but to review annually.

6. **IFC raffle basket:** Diane will once again coordinate the IFC basket for conference.

7. **Complaint:** Following the posting of the ACLU privacy rights primer for librarians to the MLA list-serv, Sarah received a complaint from a library trustee (the library director had forwarded the MLA email to trustees). The nature of the complaint was concern that library affiliation with the ACLU would send the message to the library community that privacy policy is set by the ACLU. Jackie Rafferty responded to the complaint with the following message:

**Sarah Hagan, manager of the Massachusetts Library Association (MLA), recently forwarded to me an email inquiry from you regarding the distribution of a privacy document to MA libraries. The document was created by the technology librarian at the Watertown Free Public Library and by ACLU staff. Sarah and I agreed that because I am co-chair of the MLA Intellectual Freedom Committee (MLA-IFC), [www.masslib.org/intellectual](http://www.masslib.org/intellectual) freedom, it made sense for me to respond to your inquiry. The librarian/co-author of the document that was disseminated by MLA also serves on the MLA-IFC, which is why MLA distributed the policy.**

**MA librarians have a very active state listserv managed by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) on which educational and advocacy emails regarding privacy issues and initiatives are frequently posted. Oftentimes, this information originates from the American Library Association (ALA), the oldest**

**and largest library association in the world, or from MLA, a state chapter of the ALA. The MLA-IFC routinely informs the MA library community about policy or advocacy initiatives such as state library records law, the Patriot Act, USA Freedom Act and many more.**

**ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom, <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom>, is actively engaged in legislative advocacy dedicated to safeguarding the privacy and intellectual freedom of library patrons throughout the nation. The ALA often joins with other organizations such as the ACLU, Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), and many more in legislative advocacy regarding privacy and censorship issues deemed potentially harmful to the First Amendment rights and civil liberties of US citizens. For this reason, it is highly unlikely that the library community would equate the dissemination of a privacy document created by the ACLU and a MA librarian on the listserv as the ACLU setting privacy policy for MA libraries. I hope that this information serves to mitigate your concerns, but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have further questions or thoughts on this topic. Thank you for contacting MLA!**

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the MLA-IFC,  
Jackie Rafferty, co-chair