

New York University and Library Freedom Project

Library Freedom Project: Towards an Ongoing Community of Privacy Practice

Project Justification

Library Freedom Project (LFP) and New York University (NYU) request a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program implementation grant for \$249,958.08 in order to sustain and enhance LFP, transform LFP from an educational initiative into a sustained community of practice, and empower our local libraries with privacy skills. This work meets the IMLS agency-level goal of Lifelong Learning and the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program goal to enhance the training and professional development of the library and archival workforce to meet the needs of their communities. The impact of this project will be a substantial increase in the technical and pedagogical skills of our nationwide web of LFP Privacy Advocates that will radiate out to our library colleagues and our patron communities. It will create opportunities for regional connection and learning—fostering deeper ties between LFP and local librarians.

Data privacy concerns among Americans continue to grow as we enter into year three of the COVID-19 pandemic. Surveys conducted in 2021 demonstrate that a majority of people care about privacy and want more control over their data, but they need help to exercise this control and do not know where to find privacy training and education¹. Trust in Big Tech companies has significantly eroded due to their myriad abuses of data and privacy, and people are growing more wary of AI-driven automation and the impact it may have on their lives². The pandemic has also ushered in a new set of privacy concerns related to online school and work. Global conflict is leading to increased cyber threats from foreign sources. While privacy legislation is ramping up all around the country, many Americans do not understand their privacy rights or how to apply them³. The need for trustworthy privacy education is greater than ever, and Library Freedom Project has been steadily growing our community of librarian Privacy Advocates to meet this need.

For six years, LFP has been recognized for our leadership in privacy advocacy. We have trained thousands of library workers on essential privacy skills, created informational resources available on our website⁴ and wiki⁵, and established ourselves as privacy and library ethics experts. Through our IMLS-funded training programs [Library Freedom Institute (LFI) and the LFP Crash Courses], we have established a one-of-a-kind community of practice. Library workers who take these free, intensive trainings are then invited to join LFP, which today is a group of more than 120 library workers in 31 states and the District of Columbia, representing public, academic, community college, state libraries, and library consortia in a variety of urban, suburban, small town, and rural communities. Our community is diverse, made up of 35% Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), and our last two courses were 50% BIPOC participants. Many participants also identify as LGBTQIA+.

One way that our LFP community is sustained is through our relationship with New York University, in particular with Howard Besser, NYU professor and Founding Director of the Moving Image Archiving & Preservation (MIAP) program. For almost 20 years NYU's Moving Image Archiving & Preservation (MIAP)

¹https://www.cisco.com/c/dam/en_us/about/doing_business/trust-center/docs/cisco-cybersecurity-series-2021-cps.pdf?CCID=cc000742&DTID=esootr000875&OID=rptsc027438

²https://advisory.kpmg.us/articles/2021/bridging-the-trust-chasm.html?utm_source=vanity&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=c-00107353&utm_cid=c-00107353

³ <https://iapp.org/resources/article/us-state-privacy-legislation-tracker/>

⁴ <https://libraryfreedom.org/resources>

⁵ https://libraryfreedom.wiki/html/public_html/index.php/Main_Page/Resources

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program has built and sustained a rich alumni network. This community works together on a variety of projects, keeping each other informed of interesting developments, and creating webinars and conference sessions (including collaboration between alumni who never took classes together). LFP seeks to create a similar LFI and Crash Course alumni community, learning from the NYU MIAP experience. Further, our relationship to NYU provides us with infrastructural support, such as space for our in-person events. With advice from Howard Besser, and the leadership of director and project manager Alison Macrina, LFP members learn together in our supportive training environment, then bring their privacy skills to the library world through talks, trainings, and high-quality resources.

Our current work has broad impacts in the library world, and LFP members are constantly collaborating on privacy projects big and small. In response to COVID, in early 2021, we created a series of webinars on understanding health privacy and medical information. The webinars were accompanied with downloadable resources translated into five languages⁶. LFP members are also working on a series with Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) and the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) on issues of academic vendor privacy violations. This work brings librarians and other stakeholders together to outline problems and to demand better practices, and reflects our strong connections to the larger privacy advocacy community. Another LFP project connects public library workers and youth from our communities to collaborate on resources to help teens understand privacy issues. In partnership with staff from the civil rights organization Equality Labs, we are currently building a toolkit for educators and students who are at risk of doxxing and online harassment; this will include preventative practices and information to share with administrators to help them understand this academic freedom and privacy issue. We have been able to do all of this work and more during a global pandemic, which speaks to the level of commitment and belonging that our members feel for Library Freedom Project.

In addition to our collaborative work, LFP members are leaders in the library community. Since 2019, LFP members have given more than 110 presentations⁷ on privacy and technology. LFP members are also in the leadership of at least 19 other library organizations. We seek collaborations with other library advocacy organizations, and keep each other up-to-date on relevant scholarship and practice in the privacy and anti-surveillance space. Our community's trainings, programs, and resources are highly in demand. We want to continue to build our unique LFP community and create more spaces for our members to showcase and hone their privacy skills. We want to expand opportunities for the rest of the library community to join us and learn about library ethics in practice. Finally, we want to connect all of these people more locally so that they can build relationships with other values-driven library workers in their region and help LFP stay connected to local issues, while simultaneously advocating for broader, structural change. The ultimate beneficiaries of this project are our patron communities, who will enjoy new privacy program offerings, resources, and trainings in their local libraries.

To that end, this project has three main objectives: 1) Establishing regional LFP hubs; 2) Producing resources to meet the privacy needs of the library ecosystem; 3) Developing a sustainable model for LFP going forward.

LFP Hubs

We envision a set of regional LFP hubs in semi-fixed locations in major US regions, with extant LFP members leading training events and community meetups; these will primarily focus on practical privacy needs but also encompass other library values of intellectual freedom, access, social responsibility, lifelong learning, and the

⁶ <http://healthandprivacy.com/>

⁷ https://libraryfreedom.wiki/html/public_html/index.php/Main_Page/Talks_etc

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public good. These hubs will be a space to foster current LFP member engagement, create more partnerships, and then disseminate trainings and knowledge outwards.

Connecting with each other virtually has become increasingly challenging as we enter into the third year of a pandemic. We are all feeling fatigue from constant online engagement, and we long for in-person connections. A regional LFP hub model can help us conduct our work with a COVID-safe and flexible hybrid model; smaller, local in-person events can be more easily held outside, rescheduled, or made virtual if pandemic case-numbers worsen. This will enable our work to extend into our broader librarian community, as well as connect more readily with patrons and community organizations. Different geographic locations have various strengths and challenges, and the hubs will allow for members to collaborate to serve their region-specific groups on topics that directly affect them. Hubs allow us to decentralize the group, making us more agile. The hub model will also facilitate collaboration with state library organizations and consortia, bringing LFP's in-demand tech and skills training to organizations that may not be able to offer these events on their own.

In addition to developing our training events and our relationships with the broader library community, the hubs will help us connect LFP members with one another. One of LFP's greatest strengths is our organizational culture—we have intentionally developed a community that is welcoming, diverse, enthusiastic, and caring. LFP members have built relationships by collaborating on projects, talking through difficult library issues, seeking advice, and sharing feedback. These relationships have been essential, especially during such an isolating time as the pandemic has been. The hubs will allow us to advance this crucial culture-building work.

Our vision for these hubs involves small groups of LFP members organized in strategic regions. We would like to begin with seven hubs – Pacific Northwest (Portland or Seattle based), the California Bay Area, greater Los Angeles, Midwest (Iowa based), Northeast (Boston based), Mid-Atlantic (NYC, Philly, DC, or Baltimore based), and South (Atlanta based). These hub locations represent where LFP members are concentrated, which includes members in more suburban or rural locations that could reasonably reach the hub center. For example, our Atlanta hub would serve the multiple LFP members in that city, as well as our members in more rural Cobb and Gwinnett Counties. Seven hubs is a significant undertaking given our current capacity, and we are beginning with this number anticipating that 4-5 of the hubs will thrive. We will be ready to change or adapt our hub locations as we evaluate their progress.

LFP director and project manager Alison Macrina will provide various forms of leadership to the hub groups including regularly meeting with the hub leaders, helping to plan and organize events, conducting evaluations, visiting the hubs in person and facilitating some of the trainings, as well as continuing to lead the rest of the LFP member community. During our regular LFP member calls, we will brainstorm potential hub activities with a particular focus on local/regional needs. We will offer meetups or virtual hangouts to create spaces for ideas and practice discussions. We will brainstorm ways to make our trainings appeal to a wide audience. While many events will be most appropriate for library workers, we are excited by the possibility of creating events to bring together librarians, patron communities, and a broader network of privacy advocates and tech trainers. LFP has long-standing relationships with civil rights and privacy organizations such as Electronic Frontier Foundation and the American Civil Liberties Union, and we look forward to establishing new partnerships with smaller, regionally-focused groups. These hubs will not only be spaces of community connection and learning, but also provide opportunities for credentialing and resume-building. Several LFP members who are recent graduates of MLIS programs have lamented the continued lack of practical technology and ethics education in library schools; we believe these hubs can help to meet this unmet need. The hubs will offer our library communities continued access to the LFP community of practice, which allows for even more skill development and connection.

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Some of the trainings and conversations we would like to hold in these spaces include:

- Privacy skills training 101
- How to deal with being the only “tech person” in your library
- Intermediate cybersecurity and learning basic system administration skills
- Addressing “tech phobia” among library staff
- Community organizing skillshares for fighting back against invasive technology
- How to build privacy-forward state library organizations
- How to make convincing arguments about privacy to library stakeholders
- Documentary screenings for films like *Coded Bias*
- Reading groups about privacy and tech topics
- Evaluating collections contracts based on privacy concerns
- Right-sizing assessment activities to protect user privacy
- Justifying privacy choices to administrators
- Incorporating privacy concerns into inclusion, diversity, equity, and access (IDEA) initiatives

We will constantly solicit feedback from our audiences about which trainings and events would be most meaningful to them, and we will keep interested hub participants up-to-date on our hub mailing lists. In LFP, we recognize that privacy is first and foremost an equity issue, and that the impact of the loss of privacy is felt the most among marginalized groups—immigrants, queer and trans people, Black and POC communities, people with disabilities—and many of our trainings and events will be focused on the specific information and technology needs of these communities.

Our hubs will make use of free or low-cost local physical spaces for our events such as library meeting rooms, state library organization conference rooms, as well as many outdoor spaces as possible for greater COVID safety. We will also be offering hybrid or all-virtual programming, taking into account the accessibility needs of our audiences. We will require vaccinations for our in-person events. Our events will be welcoming, inclusive, and fun, and we expect that they will be in as high demand as past LFP events have been. Most of our events will be free, low-cost, or we will charge fees on a sliding scale. We’ll promote the hubs through LFP social media (LFP’s Twitter account has 10,000 followers, LFP director Alison Macrina has 21,000), email blasts to professional listservs, and a calendar of events on our website. We’ll also set up new listservs for each hub and collect attendee contact information at each event. We will seek additional financial support when we work with budgeted institutions such as colleges and state library organizations.

We are aware of the risks of the hub model of community development—it adds a new layer of management, has the potential to make our community efforts disconnected, and creates new demands for long-term sustainability. But we are confident that LFP is ready to take on these challenges. Our director, Alison Macrina, is a trusted leader within LFP and is ready to support hub leadership and sustainability. Our community is already spread out throughout the country, and we believe the hubs will help bring our people together and expand that community and strengthen interpersonal trust, which will support the future of the organization. Finally, our LFP annual conference will foster group cohesion among the hubs; all LFP members will be invited to the conference, and we will devote significant time together sharing updates from the hubs, evaluating our work, and brainstorming what’s to come.

LFP members are excited about the hubs and full of ideas for what they can be. LFP member Nikki Rhodes, an adult services librarian at the Des Moines Public Library in Iowa, looks forward to a “shared space with folks committed to privacy who are also familiar with the particular norms and professional landscape in the

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Midwest.” Claire Lobdell, librarian at Greenfield Community College in Western Massachusetts, is excited about the skill-sharing possibilities; she wants to teach others what she knows about privacy education, and she would like to learn more about system administration and other advanced tech skills. Chris Lainson, a library media specialist in New Jersey, wants to get involved with a hub to learn about what other local librarians are struggling with and how to support each other. Callan Bignoli, director of the library at a small engineering college in Massachusetts, wants to connect educators and students working on tech ethics and privacy with similar-minded folks from the library world. Kelly McElroy, outreach librarian at Oregon State University, is excited for the structure to deepen and sustain projects that LFP members in Oregon have started with the Oregon Library Association and other regional partners. Bryan Jones, a librarian at Nashville Public Library, believes that the regional hubs would extend the momentum of LFP’s intensive training programs, and help LFP members work together to understand privacy issues that are of greatest import to our local regions.

LFP hubs also offer the opportunity to expand both the visibility of LFP and further the conversation on what libraries and library workers do. In addition to allowing LFP members to share their interests with other library workers, the opportunities for increased community engagement available through the hubs will enable LFP members to engage with non-library organizations and establish library workers as interested parties in conversations surrounding technology and privacy. While libraries and library workers are already notably concerned with issues such as the digital divide, these hubs will enable the LFP community to stand out as part of the growing community surrounding emerging issues in privacy, data, and technology.

Resources

In the last few years, LFP has worked to create and expand a set of privacy resources for our library communities to use for trainings, programs, and displays. The majority of these resources can be found on our website, libraryfreedom.org. Some resource highlights include our popular vendor scorecard, where we used the NISO Consensus Privacy Principles to score the privacy policies of major library e-resource vendors⁸⁹. Another resource is our privacy policy template, which covers our recommended best practices for library privacy policies in an easily adaptable template form¹⁰. We offer privacy training micro modules for use with library staff or in patron programs¹¹, as well as a variety of posters, flyers, and bookmarks that illustrate different aspects of the surveillance problem and offer ways for everyday people to protect themselves.

By increasing the local connections between LFP members and their regional library community, we can expand and improve our privacy resources to be more suitable to local needs. Libraries serve everyone, and we understand that the educational resources that work in urban public library settings are not always the same that will work in smaller libraries. Libraries on the east coast serve different types of communities than libraries in the Pacific Northwest or in the south. Rural libraries, sometimes with only one staff member, require resources for their own contexts. The hubs will give us the opportunity to understand these differing needs and make our resources correspond with them. Some of this will include language expansion, and we will work to translate our materials into the languages our community members speak. All of our resources will use the same permissive, open source licensing that we use on our current resources – Creative Commons BY-SA. Better resources will also help with the hybrid programming model; when we need to move events online, we will have high quality and engaging online resources to share with our audiences.

⁸ <http://www.niso.org/publications/privacy-principles>

⁹ <https://libraryfreedom.org/scorecard/>

¹⁰ <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a9n2SAYLua0ELQzAcJtbfpXWg2MRkucL7sM92aniNMo/edit>

¹¹ https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/11nJUTeoF-byvbnH_veyBv9-tML1rjq5G

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Sustainability

The sustainability of LFP's ongoing work is a key issue that the organization faces over the coming years as it transitions out of its early growth into a full-fledged community. LFP views sustainability through multiple lenses: the viability of LFP's voice in the library community, the ongoing connectedness of the LFP community, and the financial solubility of the organization.

This project works to increase the sustainability of LFP in several ways through the regional hub network. The regional hub provides numerous touchpoints for LFP work to continue in local communities while allowing the broader LFP membership to continue to speak to national and international issues. LFP acknowledges the importance of fundamental, systemic change when it comes to privacy while also recognizing the value of small-scale, library-by-library work. The hubs will allow for the development of localized materials that speak to the direct needs of target communities in particular areas, as has been seen in more topic-specific LFP activities around teen privacy and anti-doxxing.

LFP has found a niche in the library world, and the response has been robust. However, the project now totals over 120 members, making it difficult for any person to effectively connect with each person equally. The hubs will provide a smaller "home" for individuals (especially newcomers) in the organization to meet people, to build connections, and to find work they want to contribute to. Community and connection have been the keys to LFP's success from its earliest days; it therefore stands to reason that scaling that community is one of the primary sustainability challenges and goals of the organization as it grows.

The hub development will also create a knock-on effect in generalized fundraising. By spreading the work of managing LFP to the community, LFP director Alison Macrina can devote more time to coordinating efforts and to creating partnerships with funding organizations outside of LFP's traditional network. Further it may be worth the time of individual hubs to work towards new grants that would not be worth the energy of the broader project to pursue. These grants can be an additional source of funding for larger, regional-specific projects that we expect to come about through the hubs.

The hubs themselves are a pilot project; while we anticipate that they will be successful and will create ongoing work, there may be the need to change functionality based on the experiences of the first two years. When launching multiple sites simultaneously, there will be an opportunity to explore and share best practices as well as mistakes between sites. Further, some sites may struggle due to limited support in a certain region, pointing towards future areas where more recruitment may be necessary. The hub funding in this grant will launch this project and provide guidance for the funding needs they will have going forward. While many of their activities could be sustained with minimal funding (conference presentations, meetups) others will require an ongoing infusion of capital to ensure that hub members are able to equitably participate.

One of the ways that the health and success of the hubs can be measured is through the meetup at the LFP annual conference. The conference will provide the opportunity to share knowledge, skills, and workflows that have proven successful to the wider community. It will be a way for the LFP community to come together, reinvigorate their shared spirit and understanding of the work, and then to go back out to deliver that energy to their local communities. While the annual conference may not contribute directly to the fiscal sustainability of LFP (as people would not be charged to attend and some may be supported in their travel), it absolutely contributes to the sustainability of the connections and community that is core to this national network of privacy experts, as well as the sustainability of the LFP hubs. A large portion of our time together at the annual conference will be devoted to sharing about hub progress, successes and challenges, as well as brainstorming the future of the hubs.

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Another sustainability issue faced by anyone working in the technology space is the pace at which things change; LFP is no exception. All resources will be shared under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike (CC BY-SA) license, and the original documents will be kept in a shared drive accessible to all LFP members in editable formats, so that they can be translated, updated, and reworked as necessary to support the ongoing work. The LFP director will be responsible for the shared drive, but oversight and maintenance may be delegated to an LFP member.

Project Work Plan

We will begin with seven regional LFP hubs: Pacific Northwest (Portland or Seattle based), the California Bay Area, greater Los Angeles, Midwest (Iowa based), Northeast (Boston based), Mid-Atlantic (NYC, Philly, DC, or Baltimore based), and South (Atlanta based). These are potential, not fixed hub locations, and we will work with LFP membership to determine where the hubs would be most beneficial. These hubs will be led by extant LFP members under the guidance of the LFP director.

The establishment of seven LFP hub locations is an ambitious endeavor, requiring that we strategically establish them in areas where existing LFP members are physically located. As with the implementation of any new project, we are accounting for the possibility which may require LFP to shift or consolidate locations in order to sustain collaboration and output. Any shifting of resources or locations will be taken with great care. LFP will maintain regular communication with hub leadership, evaluate their progress, and work together with hub leadership to adapt as necessary. We expect to have at least four well-functioning hubs at the end of this project period.

The first step in our hub development will be selecting hub leaders and beginning to plan together what we need and want to make the hubs successful. This will include activities such as identifying local library organizations and other community groups to partner with, finding locations for in-person events, creating marketing materials, brainstorming initial events, seeking feedback from the local library community, and planning a kick-off event introducing the hubs. We will establish a regular schedule for hub leadership to meet together quarterly.

We want the hub activities to reflect the needs of our local communities, and we will be seeking this input from them continuously through a variety of feedback mechanisms. A typical month in the hub lifecycle will include event planning and delivery, connecting with local people and organizations, and developing LFP resources to correspond with hub events. Each individual hub will be responsible for at least three deliverables per quarter, in the form of trainings, collaborative projects, new resources, ongoing series, or other events. We will further refine these deliverables as we begin to organize the hubs and determine the potential reach and impact of each hub location. Our regular and ongoing hub activities will also include quarterly LFP member engagement meetings to discuss hub projects and partnerships as well as conduct ongoing hub evaluation.

We will measure the performance of this project throughout its lifespan. Project manager Alison Macrina will conduct quarterly evaluations with the leadership of each hub, checking in on the process, effectiveness and quality of events. These quarterly evaluations will take place on a video call, and hub leaders will be invited to share their successes and challenges, self-evaluating their progress. Hub leaders will also be asked to collect assessment data from their participants in the form of surveys or feedback emails, incorporating that feedback in an ongoing way. Every six months, Macrina and the hub leadership will evaluate this feedback data alongside the self-evaluations, looking at the overall progress of the hubs as well as efficacy, efficiency, quality,

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and timeliness according to our project plan. This feedback data will both inform our resource creation, as well as evaluate those resources as we create and disseminate them. At our annual conference in Autumn 2023, we will present to all LFP membership a highlight of our first year of the hubs and will spend much of our conference time together planning year two. The annual conference will also serve as a space to envision the future of the hubs and of LFP as an organization beyond year two of this project plan. It will be an opportunity to connect with each other in-person and renew our commitments to this community and one another.

Our two-year work plan will be organized as follows:

- *Aug–Oct 2022*: Begin planning regional hubs and choose local hub leadership
- *Nov 2022–Jan 2023*: Establish hubs; train hub coordinators; begin planning hub schedules
- *Feb–Apr 2023*: New privacy resource development; establish regional hub quarterly check-in; hub activities ongoing; planning for LFP annual conference
- *May–July 2023*: New privacy resource development; quarterly regional hub check-in; hub activities ongoing; planning for LFP annual conference; evaluate and review hub work in advance of mid-grant assessment
- *Aug–Oct 2023*: LFP annual conference; mid-grant assessment; new privacy resource development; quarterly regional hub check-in; hub activities ongoing
- *Nov 2023–Jan 2024*: LFP annual conference evaluation and assessment; new privacy resource development; quarterly regional hub check-in; hub activities ongoing
- *Feb–Apr 2024*: Privacy resource development; quarterly hub check-in; hub activities ongoing
- *May–July 2024*: Project evaluation and assessment; archival plan for privacy resources; quarterly regional hub check-in; hub activities ongoing

Diversity Plan

Equity and diversity are paramount to the success and sustainability of this project, and of Library Freedom Project as a whole. The diversity of LFP is a principal source of its strength and gives us a uniquely holistic perspective on privacy issues. We are proud that our two most recent cohorts were 50% BIPOC. Going forward, our membership recruitment goal remains at least 50% BIPOC for new members. In addition to the diversity within LFP, we recognize that privacy is an equity issue and focus our work on the disparate effects of the loss of privacy on marginalized people. We work to make our programs accessible to people with disabilities and are embracing principles of universal design. Our programs and resources are intended to benefit the most privacy-vulnerable communities, like those with low digital literacy, economically disadvantaged patrons, immigrants, seniors, and LGBTQ people. Privacy issues connect to other equity issues, like digital inclusion, digital literacy, open educational resources, and civic technology, and we address these issues throughout our work.

The hub model further supports the LFP ethos of meeting people where they are. On top of the many recognized subsets of the population already mentioned, LFP members have a variety of different health statuses, family dynamics, employment situations, and other personal specifics that make a one-size-fits-all approach to community unworkable. With regional hubs, groups can dedicate more granular attention to the needs of each specific member, ensuring that the how, when, and what of the work matches the abilities and needs of the hub members. Creating diversity does not just happen, and the hubs will be at the appropriate size to ensure that all voices are heard and incorporated.

LFP's diversity also includes the people it seeks to reach. LFP and its hubs would maintain the flexibility to open its trainings and activities to non-library audiences to those in allied fields or the general public if the crossover appeal were strong enough. While LFP is primarily focused on the needs inside the library world, the

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broader focus has always been and remains on how to leverage the power of libraries to disseminate a privacy and anti-surveillance mindset more broadly.

Project Results

The results of this project will be more than 120 LFP members deepening both their privacy skills and their relationships with local communities. It will include four to seven regional hubs offering privacy training for potentially hundreds more library workers and local community members. It will result in a new set of privacy resources developed by LFP members which will be fully open-sourced and disseminated on our website, at the regional hub events, and at professional conferences across the country. The resources developed will cover privacy issues relevant to the broader library community, will be in up to three languages, will incorporate principles of universal design, and will be available at no charge. While these resources will be developed with a library audience in mind, we believe that they will be adaptable and usable by other institutions such as schools, community centers, and academic environments, and LFP's broad network and reach will ensure that these resources are discoverable. The hubs and resources together will advance privacy knowledge among library workers that will benefit our diverse and geographically-dispersed patron communities. By the end of this project term, we expect to have offered at least 75 trainings at our combined hub locations, completed 10 new privacy resources with translations, shared this work at 20 conferences, and built community with hundreds of library workers.

The project will result in a sustained LFP community through an annual conference and ongoing structure for continued work, as well as deeper connections between LFP community members, extending the impact of this work beyond the grant period. It will allow us the opportunity to connect more deeply with our local communities and then share what we're learning with each other in our broader national network.

LFP has learned firsthand about the strength smaller organizations can have, compared with large organizations with complex bureaucracies. Taking LFP to a smaller, tighter local model system that is distributed around the country will enable us to continue building the close connections we have developed in the organization as a whole. This model distributes leadership and governance of LFP in a way that makes the whole organization and mission behind it more sustainable. It helps scale the issues we take on to the local environments we serve. It is also an experiment intended to establish or test out different ways of sustainability for the future of the organization. While this project plan intends to result in at least four hubs, our vision for the future beyond the project period is an LFP model with multiple hubs at many strategic locations around the country. Through the hub model, we will also lead LFP members to apply for future IMLS grants and other funding opportunities that focus on the privacy issues relevant to their local communities. LFP has been sustainable and growing since 2015, and we are ready for the next phase of our expansion. We are very grateful for the support of IMLS over the years and we appreciate the consideration for this round of the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program.

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Digital products plan

Type

We are creating digital instructional and programmatic resources for librarians and their patron communities. These are born-digital materials which may include curricula, slides, flyers, posters, zines, charts and accompanying documentation. We will create ten or more of these resources, shared in common digital file formats like PDF, DOCX, and PPTX, MP3 for audio and MP4 for video. We will embed metadata tags with “Privacy Instruction” on all our html guide pages to facilitate discovery via search engines. We will also embed technical metadata in all of our assets.

Availability

We will make our digital resources freely and openly available to download through our public website, libraryfreedom.org, in print at our hub locations, and at other events like library conferences - both live and on recordings. Our materials will be made available using a permissive open source license, Creative Commons BY-SA, so that they can be reused and remixed freely.

Access

We will release all digital resources under the same permissive open source license that we use for all LFP resources - Creative Commons BY-SA. Library Freedom Project is the license holder, but we will not be asserting any intellectual property rights over our materials, as we intend them to be freely used, downloaded, remixed, and recreated for any audiences. None of our resources implicate any privacy concerns or cultural sensitivities. Before making any recordings, we will obtain written consent from all presenters.

Sustainability

We intend for the digital products generated for this period to be long-lived to allow for maximal use and reuse by our target audiences. As an academic unit focused on preservation, NYU’s MIAP program has a good track record of keeping materials like these (both the digital assets, as well as the web pages preserving them) alive and accessible; currently MIAP provides access to materials since its inception nearly 20 years ago, and plans to keep Library Freedom Project’s resources accessible as long as MIAP exists. In addition, the materials will be deposited in NYU Library’s digital repository, as well as on the Internet Archive.

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New York University

Founded in 1831, New York University (NYU) is one of the largest private universities in the United States. NYU enrolls more than 50,000 students at three degree-granting campuses in New York City, Abu Dhabi, and Shanghai, and at study away sites in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America. NYU's mission, set by its Board of Trustees, is to be a top quality international center of scholarship, teaching, and research.¹

NYU Moving Image Archiving and Preservation (MIAP) Program

The Moving Image Archiving and Preservation Program (MIAP) program is a unit of the Department of Cinema Studies within NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. The MIAP program educates and trains future professionals to manage archival collections of video, film, and digital media, conferring a Master of Arts degree for the completion of its interdisciplinary 64-credit course of study. A committee of faculty, staff, and students administer the program, and a combination of full-time professors and professional adjunct instructors make up its faculty.

MIAP values experiential, project-based learning, as well as collaboration with peers and publics. Its ethic of sharing and openness emphasizes preservation that serves access and use. It values diversity—in its student body, partners, content of collections, and constituencies served. Although its chief responsibility is to educate students, the program also engages with extramural communities, understanding that such interactions ultimately serve students' education and the greater good.²

Library Freedom Project

Library Freedom Project (LFP) is a community of practice for librarians addressing the problems of surveillance by making real the promise of intellectual freedom in libraries. By teaching librarians about surveillance threats, privacy rights and responsibilities, and digital tools to stop surveillance, LFP hopes to create a privacy-centric paradigm shift in libraries and the communities they serve.³

LFP works with librarians and their local communities primarily in the United States and Canada, providing practical privacy and security trainings focused on helping people fight back against overbroad government surveillance, corporate data mining, and other internet threats including identity theft and fraud. We work with libraries of all kinds—public, academic, special, school—from urban to rural areas, with many kinds of demographic populations. Whenever possible, we focus on those populations most impacted by surveillance—communities of color, economically disadvantaged people, immigrants, Muslims, LGBTQ people, and women. We work with libraries because libraries tend to be trusted spaces within these communities, and because libraries offer free computer use and computer instruction.

Today, LFP's focus is running our highly successful intensive trainings for librarians, and collaborating on privacy projects with our more than 120 Privacy Advocate librarians who've taken our trainings. Our current trainings, the LFP Crash Courses, are IMLS-funded 10-week programs for library workers who want to become Privacy Advocates in their communities. Through a combination of online curricula, discussion and group work, participants in the LFP Crash Courses learn practical and relevant skills for helping their communities with privacy concerns. Upon completing the Crash Courses, participants are invited to be part of the LFP community, continuing to work together with other cohort graduates to make change in their local communities and beyond.

¹ "About NYU," accessed March 3, 2022, <https://www.nyu.edu/about.html>.

² Excerpt from "MIAP Strategic Plan 2015-16," approved by MIAP Committee, December 2015.

³ "Library Freedom Project," accessed March 3, 2022, <https://libraryfreedom.org/>. Mission statement approved by LFP Director Alison Macrina.