

**New York University****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 \$249,792 in order to sustain and enhance LFP, transforming LFP from an educational initiative into a community of practice, and empowering 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 into communities.

For six years, LFP has been recognized for our leadership in privacy advocacy. We've trained thousands of library workers on essential privacy skills, created informational resources available on our website<sup>1</sup> and wiki<sup>2</sup>, 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 of more than 100 library workers in 31 states and the District of Columbia, representing public, academic, 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+.

Our current work has broad impact in the library world. 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 languages<sup>3</sup>. LFP members are also working on a series with Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) and SPARC on issues of academic vendor privacy violations. This work brings librarians and other stakeholders together to outline problems and to demand better practices. Another LFP project brings together public library workers and youth from our communities to collaborate on resources to help teens understand privacy issues. Since 2019, LFP members have given at least 110 presentations<sup>4</sup> on privacy and technology. LFP members are in the leadership of at least 19 other library organizations. Demand for our work has grown, and we seek funding to support the sustainability of this community in order to meet that demand.

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.

**Project Work Plan:** We'll establish six regional LFP hubs: West, Plains/Rockies, Midwest, Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and South. These hubs will be led by extant LFP members under the guidance of the LFP Executive Director. Potential hub activities: 1) Creating a directory for local trainers to speak at library conferences; 2) Hosting meet-ups or virtual hangouts to create a space for idea and practice discussion; 3) Ongoing training for LFP members and interested library personnel; 4) Disseminating LFP resources to targeted audiences.

We'll also continue to use our community expertise to develop resources in a variety of formats that will speak to the continued needs of our constituents. Topics may include: 1) Ongoing work in health data privacy; 2) Privacy resources for researchers engaged in sensitive research; 3) K-12 and collegiate surveillance; 4) Vendor privacy issues. These resources will also be translated into multiple languages based on communities

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<sup>1</sup> <https://libraryfreedom.org/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://libraryfreedom.wiki/html/public\\_html/index.php/Main\\_Page](https://libraryfreedom.wiki/html/public_html/index.php/Main_Page)

<sup>3</sup> <http://healthandprivacy.com/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://libraryfreedom.wiki/html/public\\_html/index.php/Main\\_Page/Talks\\_etc](https://libraryfreedom.wiki/html/public_html/index.php/Main_Page/Talks_etc)

served. Further, these resources will embrace aspects of universal design<sup>5</sup> to ensure that as broad an audience as possible can effectively interact with the content.

LFP is a deeply resonant community to those involved in it, and its unique structure is one of the key reasons why it is successful. Work must be done to ensure the ongoing success of the organization as it tackles the large goals in the first two points of this project plan. This work would include: 1) Ongoing training of members to renew their expertise in theoretical, practical, and technical skills related to privacy; 2) A semi-annual conference that allows for members throughout the community of practice to come together to share ideas and to plan for the future; 3) Ongoing diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. Our two-year work plan will be organized as follows:

- *Aug - Oct 2022*: Begin planning regional hubs; quarterly skills training for LFP members
- *Nov 2022 - Jan 2023*: Establish hubs; elect hub coordinators; quarterly skills training for LFP members
- *Feb - Apr 2023*: New privacy resource development; establish regional hub quarterly check-in; quarterly skills training for LFP members; planning for LFP annual conference
- *May - July 2023*: New privacy resource development; quarterly regional hub check-in; quarterly skills training for LFP members; planning for LFP annual conference
- *Aug - Oct 2023*: LFP annual conference; mid-grant assessment; new privacy resource development; quarterly regional hub check-in; quarterly skills training for LFP members
- *Nov 2023 - Jan 2024*: LFP annual conference assessment; new privacy resource development; quarterly regional hub check-in; quarterly skills training for LFP members
- *Feb - Apr 2024*: Privacy resource development; quarterly hub check-in; quarterly skills training for LFP
- *May - July 2024*: Project evaluation; archival plan for privacy resources; quarterly regional hub check-in; quarterly skills training for LFP members

**Diversity Plan:** The diversity of LFP is a principal source of its strength and gives us a uniquely holistic perspective on privacy issues. We're proud that our two most recent cohorts were 50% BIPOC. Going forward, our recruitment goal remains at least 50% BIPOC enrollment for each new major educational initiative. Further, we've worked to make our programs accessible to people with disabilities and are embracing principles of universal design. In addition to the diversity of LFP, we recognize the disparate effects of the loss of privacy on marginalized people. Therefore, we focus our privacy strategies to benefit low digital literacy and economically disadvantaged patrons, as well as the most privacy vulnerable communities (immigrants, seniors, LGBT).

**Project Results:** The results of this project will be more than 100 LFP members actively engaged in ongoing library privacy work in at least 30 states. It will include six regional hubs offering privacy training for potentially hundreds of library workers. In turn, the privacy resources developed by LFP and trainings made by LFP members will reach at least 25,000 people over the grant period. Presentations about the ongoing work of LFP will be made to relevant professional bodies as the opportunities arise during the grant. The resources developed will cover privacy issues for use by the broader library community, will be in up to three languages, and will be available at no charge. The project will also result in a sustained LFP community through an annual conference and ongoing structure for continued work, extending the impact beyond the grant period.

**Budget summary:** Total anticipated costs are \$249,792, allocated as follows: 1) Salaries/wages/fringe: \$11,399; 3) Subawards: \$218,680 (LFP); 4) Translation: \$2000; 5) Trainer stipends: \$3000; 6) Indirect costs: \$14,713

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<sup>5</sup> <http://universaldesign.ie/What-is-Universal-Design/>