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Cohort - 2018
LFI - Week 7

Assignment
● Write 3-5 talking points about how you'd discuss these subjects with library staff or patrons, or;
● Try to find out what surveillance equipment the police in your community have, or;
● Continue working on one of your assignments from another week (instructional slides or talking points or whatever)

After reading the SLS page of EFF, I was curious about the use of automated license plate readers in Oakland. I first learned of these several years ago when my car disappeared from my neighborhood twice. In both instances, the officers said they found it with a group of other nearly identical cars (gotta love those late 90s Hondas), and their scanner picked up the license plates which then alerted them that the cars were stolen.

In reading about their use in Oakland, it sounds like the information is collected but not distributed via the network contracted with ICE - Vigilant. This article regarding license plate readers in California on *The Verge* helped me understand how, even if some areas are pushing back against these technologies, different agencies at different levels can do differently. One of the examples in the article that helped me understand this was "Dallas County is a sanctuary district, and while the sheriff's department does not share data with Vigilant, the police department and Dallas-Fort Worth airport both do." Another section that further illuminated this for me was when the author noted that, while Oakland might not be sharing the data with ICE, surrounding areas such as San Mateo, Marin, and Contra Costa area, and therefore, Oakland residents data gets swept up and distributed in the mix.

This reminded me of another article about the surveillance technology ordinance passed in Oakland which "bars police from implementing surveillance technology without informing citizens." In the same article, Matt Cagle is quoted as saying "California should champion statewide legislation that provides these protections to all residents," and I heartily agree. I'm glad I live in a place that has this ordinance, but since so many agencies overlap and work among Oakland citizens, it only takes a small bite out of the problem.

In addition to my tangent on the use of ALPRs in Oakland, other surveillance equipment employed by the Oakland Police Department that I could find (since things seem to move slowly and get murky - saw some documents pointed to the Domain Awareness Center which seemed to be growing quickly but was tamped down by various parties in Oakland at the time - 2014?):
   ● "stingray, Hailstorm, cell-site simulator stuff"
     https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2017/01/how-an-ex-cop-tries-to-get-a-police-department-to-think-about-privacy/

- Geofeedia (social media monitoring tool)
  https://www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland/oakland-cops-quietly-acquired-social-media-surveillance-tool/Content?oid=4747526
- "cameras monitoring traffic intersections and public areas"
  https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-37411250

I was mildly aware of these things in my town, but am paying closer attention now. When I start my next full-time job in the fall, my next goal is to become familiar with the practices of their on-campus police officers, and how that intersects with the policies of the school district and enforcement.