

A Tor relay would benefit activists and journalists around the world, but especially in places where the internet is censored and there is no freedom of speech.

It would benefit anyone who needed, or wanted, to be not surveilled online. Tor is often used by victims of harassment or abuse to protect themselves from abusers.

It would signal our strong belief in intellectual freedom and privacy.

Tor is open source, free software funded by Mozilla, the National Science Foundation, the State Dept, and other pro-democracy charities.

Establishing Tor relays in Tennessee libraries was one of my stated goals when applying for Library Freedom Institute. I was accepted to LFI. A NPL hosted relay would be my capstone project.

What would it look like if we accomplished this:

- 1) We would be praised defending privacy rights and combating censorship.
- 2) Nothing--no one would notice except for my classmates in LFI.
- 3) There would be negative feedback because Tor is sometimes associated with criminal behavior in popular media.

Two libraries have publicly announced their hosting of Tor relays: 1) Kilton Public Library in New Hampshire, and 2) the University of Western Ontario. Tor relays are quietly hosted by dozens of other libraries.

Kilton gained public attention after receiving a letter from the Department of Homeland Security encouraging them to deactivate their relay. They held a Board meeting. There was overwhelming public support to keep the relay on. The board voted unanimously to keep the relay on. The NH House of Representatives passed a bill 268-11 making it explicitly legal for libraries to host relays. The bill later died in committee. Despite the national attention, DHS refused to publicly comment. Some press:

NPR after the vote

<https://www.npr.org/2015/09/16/440914105/n-h-public-library-reconsiders-support-for-anonymous-internet-network-tor>

Christian Science Monitor (This is actually a great overview of privacy in libraries, Tor at Kilton, and Library Freedom Institute.)
<https://www.csmonitor.com/Technology/2017/1017/How-these-librarians-are-changing-how-we-think-about-digital-privacy>

Fortune Magazine (including a quote from Kilton Board chair)
<http://fortune.com/2015/09/16/library-tor-network-vote/>

The Daily Mail
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-3660721/Browse-free-die-New-Hampshire-library-privacy-fore.html>