Week 11: Vendor agreements and library policies

Overview

Librarians have been some of the staunchest supporters of privacy since at least when the ALA Core Values of Librarianship were created in 1939. But our reliance on third-party vendors who don't necessarily share our values has created a disconnect between our beliefs and our practices. This week, Sarah Houghton, aka The Librarian in Black, will talk to us about vendor policies and privacy, and how to demand that our vendors respect our fundamental values in the products they sell us.

Learning objectives

- Learn about common privacy issues with vendors, like their use of third-party tracking
- Learn how to create better vendor agreements using the ALA Library Privacy Checklists
- Learn about good vendors and bad vendors

Readings

- ALA Library Privacy Checklists http://www.ala.org/advocacy/privacy/checklists
- Protecting Patron Privacy: Librarians, Vendors, and Patrons Each Have a Role to Play https://digitalcommons.du.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1330&context=collaborativelibrarianship
- San Jose Public Library Vendor Security Analysis results https://drive.google.com/open?id=1jdPwQeC5RAUbBWLAhyIYxWHa0pTdVObc
- EFF's How to Assess Vendors' Data Security https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/01/how-assess-vendors-data-security
- EFF Vendor Security Checklist https://www.eff.org/files/2018/01/08/checklist_-_how_to_assess_a_vendors_data_security.pdf

Guest lecturer

Sarah Houghton, The Librarian in Black http://librarianinblack.net/librarianinblack/

Discussion

- How do your vendor policies measure up?
- Find trackers on your vendors using Lightbeam (https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/lightbeam/) or Privacy Badger (https://www.eff.org/privacybadger)

Assignment

- How would you implement one or more of the privacy checklists in your library? Come up with your own plan and share it.