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Library Freedom Institute  
Week 14: Overview of LFI Experience

Since starting this course I’ve been sharing privacy tips with my colleagues at my branch and with Oakland Public Library’s (OPL) Digital Safety Committee. One of my primary reasons for wanting to participate in the Library Freedom Institute is because I feel that, as librarians, we haven’t kept pace with how privacy is affected by digital technology even though protecting patron’s privacy has always been part of our core values. I wanted to educate myself on digital privacy and find cogent ways of communicating the importance of protecting patron privacy in a digital environment.   
 Reviewing threat modeling has been one of the most impactful parts of the program for me so far. Understanding that we all have different threat models and helping patrons and staff to assess their threats is a positive way to educate folks without scaring them or making them feel helpless. Nasma’s lecture on youth privacy was also impactful. I thought much of what she said about creating engaging trainings could also be applied to adults. As I create trainings for adults on privacy, my fear is that no one will show up. I’m afraid the material will seem too dry, too overwhelming or too scary. Listening to Nasma I realized that having a discussion and creating curriculum around the discussion would result in more engaging, interactive trainings. This also speaks to what Mallory covered in her workshop presentation during our NYC weekend.   
 Each month I share with staff at our Branch meetings and at Digital Safety Committee meetings different privacy tips such as the Digital Detox, HaveIBeenPwnd site and password tips such as using Diceware. Our Acting Library Director is planning to install CCTVs in all of the branches so I expressed my concern about the cameras and asked to be part of the committee that discusses these purchases and advocated for more people rather than cameras. I was informed that nothing was happening for a while and that I would be included in these discussions. This class has helped me to better articulate my concerns, present a cogent argument and even include reading materials supporting my argument in the case of the CCTVs. I also shared the vendor analysis from our readings with Supervising Librarians who were grateful to receive the information.   
 Additionally, at our most recent Digital Safety Committee Meeting we decided the best way to reach our patrons is through interactive trainings, regular tips posted on a blog and/or through our newsletter and becoming more engaged with City leaders to help influence policy. We also talked about the importance of training all new library staff on basic digital safety issues. A segment on digital safety will now be part of OPL’s new hire trainings. Yay!  
 When I introduced the idea of hosting the Glass House Experiment at OPL, the committee, including Supervising Librarians who make final decisions, were responsive and excited about this prospect. We learned this week that we were selected as a host site and we plan to host at the Main Library and at the Dimond Branch where I work. The Glass House Experiment (GHE) seems like the perfect way to engage our patrons with digital privacy since it’s an interactive, hands-on display. My supervisor and I discussed hosting the GHE at our branch for a week or two in January and then presenting a program on data detoxing.   
 Our library system is only just beginning to explore the importance of educating patrons on digital privacy and safety issues and we haven’t done much programming in this area so the GHE will be a great start. I plan to develop the data detox workshop and another 101 type digital privacy workshop incorporating threat modeling and tips on how to make devices more secure based on threat models. I hope to develop this as my final project.  
 I’d also like to host a Choose Privacy Week book talk in the spring with Cyrus Farivar and show people how to do public records searches as part of the talk, but that will be after LFI ends (sniff). I’m still thinking about ways to incorporate these teachings and learnings throughout the coming year and beyond.