

Call for Submissions

2021-22 OLA Quarterly Winter

The theme for the upcoming Winter issue of OLA Quarterly is privacy and security, and will be guest-edited by Ellie Avis, Collection Manager at Multnomah County Library and by Kelly McElroy, Student Engagement and Community Outreach Librarian at Oregon State University.

The American Library Association has enshrined privacy as a core value, and library workers seek to protect the right to read and learn freely. However, in an increasingly connected world, libraries and library users face new issues of pervasive surveillance and data collection. What is our responsibility as library professionals to counter these trends? How are we educating patrons to protect their sensitive data? How are we evaluating our own practices around data security? What disproportionate impact do new surveillance technologies, like facial recognition, have on communities of color, LGBTQIA+ patrons, and other marginalized groups? This issue seeks to increase awareness of the range of privacy issues applicable to libraries and bolster our collective understanding of libraries as active partners in promoting privacy in the library and beyond. This issue could include perspectives on training staff, evaluating internal data protection practices, public programs related to privacy and security, protecting user privacy in licensing agreements with vendors, writing and implementing a privacy policy in an organization, and/or collaborations within and outside the library.

Potential authors are invited to submit proposals to Ellie and Kelly at elliea@multcolib.org and kelly.mcelroy@oregonstate.edu by October 15. Proposals should include the author's name and contact information, proposed topic, and a brief description (300-500 words). Please also include answers to the following questions:

- How does the proposed topic relate to the theme of privacy?
- What is your connection to this topic?
- How will you address issues of diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racism in your article?

Article length averages 1,000 to 2,500 words, and images and creative work are welcome.