



Pacifica Graduate
Institute
Research Library
Academic Freedom Policy

Academic Freedom and Library Privacy Policy

Introduction

To protect and preserve academic and intellectual freedoms, the library has adopted a strict privacy policy that prevents staff members from discussing with other parties the nature of materials on loan to its patrons.

Academic & Intellectual Freedom

Because the Pacifica library serves both an academic community as well as the interests of public members, the terms *academic* and *intellectual* freedom are often used interchangeably to address the privacy rights of all library patrons. At their core, these freedoms protect a patron's right to experience, read, investigate, study, and learn from library materials and services freely and without fear of discovery, intrusion, retribution, exposure, etc.

Patron Privacy Rights

In order to secure academic and intellectual freedoms at Pacifica, the library enforces strict privacy procedures that uphold these values. As such, library staff will not:

- Discuss with third parties items checked out under an individual's account**
- Check out materials to patrons under the accounts of others*
- Renew/Hold/Reserve materials for patrons at the request of others*
- Send materials to anyone other than the requesting patron*
- Facilitate transactions/transfer of materials between students*
- Mediate disagreements between patrons based upon unauthorized, inter-patron lending*
- Disclose personal information (contact information, track information, etc.) regarding patrons*

The library recognizes that there may exist associated situations befitting these categories: librarians reserve the right to make, in sound judgment, the decision as to whether or not an inquiry breaches stated policies. These conditions apply regardless of the status or title of inquiring bodies, be they community members, students, staff, or faculty. Additionally, these conditions apply regardless of patron relations, be they parental, sibling, spousal, etc.

* The Library complies with FERPA regulations. In special circumstances, under the guidelines of FERPA, the library may share information with third parties. We advise you to be informed patrons: contact Student Affairs for information on your FERPA rights, and consult your student handbook for additional FERPA information.

Supporting Agencies

Library policies regarding patron privacy and academic freedom are supported by a number of professional organizations. Currently, the American Library Association (ALA), the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), Students for Academic Freedom (SAF), the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), as well as nearly all colleges and universities have issued standards and statements supporting intellectual freedom. The library's policies reflect the values and principles established by the Library Bill of Rights (ALA), the Intellectual Freedom Principles for Academic Libraries (ALA), the Academic Bill of Rights (SAF), the Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure (AAUP), ACRL's statement regarding Academic Freedom, and embrace the protection of these rights in conjunction with nearly all public, university and college libraries.

Reciprocation

Since the inception of libraries as institutions of learning, private, public, individual, and collective entities have attempted encroachment upon patron privacy rights. As such, many librarians have faced the threat of retribitional termination of employment, physical confrontation, imprisonment, and contempt of court/Congress in order to protect intellectual freedom, and in doing so, selflessly guarded the rights of others. Therefore, we ask our patrons to honor our efforts in this tradition, and in protecting their academic freedoms. We ask students to refrain from making inquiries that violate this policy and to be respectful of library staff when such requests are denied.

Additional Information & Reading

If you would like to learn more about intellectual and academic freedoms, or are curious about their historical conflicts, you are welcome to contact library staff. Questions or concerns regarding this policy may be addressed to the Library Director.