

Fairbury Public Library Patron Privacy Policy

The Fairbury Public Library subscribes to the American Library Association's Code of Ethics (adopted June 28, 1997, by the ALA Council; amended January 22, 2008) in regards to confidentiality of patron records. "We protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted."

Staff will not divulge any patron's reading preferences or history to any other person without their permission (verbally, or by having their library card or number). This includes divulging information to parents regarding items checked out on their minor's cards. Exceptions may be made when the library is attempting to retrieve lost or missing items.

State law stipulates confidentiality of library records, i.e. Law 84-712.05, "Records which may be withheld from the public", states that "The following records, unless publicly disclosed in an open court, open administrative proceeding or open meeting or disclosed by a public entity pursuant to its duties, may be withheld from the public by the lawful custodian of the records : ... (11) Records or portions of records kept by a publicly funded library which, when examined with or without other records, revealed the identity of any library patron using the library's materials or services." In accordance, staff will not divulge any patron's personal information, even to an officer of the law, unless requested to do so by the patron. Law enforcement officers requesting information should immediately be referred to the Library Director who will handle the request in accordance to the American Library Association's "[Recommended Procedures for Law Enforcement Visits](#)."

From a phone call, library staff cannot confirm the presence of a patron in the library, even in the case of minors. A message will be taken and given to the patron if they are in the library. It is then up to them to contact the caller.