

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STUDENT DATA PRIVACY

Council of Library Deans

California State University

April 27, 2017

WHEREAS:

1. Campuses and libraries in the California State University system utilize data to assess and demonstrate our value in regard to student success; and
2. Libraries have traditionally used indirect measures and/or qualitative and aggregate data to demonstrate value. It is becoming increasingly clear that those methods by themselves do not give a full picture of how campus libraries contribute to student success; and
3. More recently, many libraries have suggested trying to find a statistically significant relationship between the use of library resources and student success as defined by student grade point average, retention, and time to graduation; and
4. Another method that libraries have suggested is the search for a statistically significant relationship between information literacy instruction and student success; and
5. One of the core values of librarianship is privacy, and some have questioned if collecting, retaining, and analyzing student data for the purposes of improving student success compromises our commitment to privacy; and
6. State of California Public Records Act (Protection of Library Circulation and Registration Records, Government Code Title 1, Division 7, Chapter 3.5) states that all registration and circulation records of library users shall remain confidential and shall not be disclosed to any person, local, state, or federal agency unless required by law or court order; and
7. These questions are especially relevant today when there is growing and widespread concern about the actions and intentions of the federal government, especially on the part of non-native born students. Many CSU students are immigrants or children of immigrants, whether documented or undocumented.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Library Deans (COLD) of the California State University affirms the crucial importance of privacy in the collection and retention of student data.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of Library Deans (COLD) of the California State University should communicate the importance of student data privacy to library staff and faculty, to students, and to the campus community, especially those involved in student data collection, retention, and analysis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of Library Deans (COLD) of the California State University should encourage the creation of a publicly posted library policy on patron privacy in all CSU libraries, both online and in the physical environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of Library Deans (COLD) of the California State University refer this resolution to the CSU Statewide Faculty Senate in order to emphasize and reaffirm the commitment of librarians to the privacy of student data.