

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

POLICY OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF LIBRARY RECORDS

The Stony Brook University Libraries support and comply with New York State Law (New York State Civil Practice Law & Rules 4509. Library Records) with respect to the confidentiality of library records. All library records relating to an individual patron's use of the Stony Brook University Libraries and its resources are confidential. These records may be consulted and used by library staff in the course of carrying out library operations, but will not be disclosed to others except upon the request or consent of the library user, or pursuant to subpoena, court order, or otherwise required by law. Such disclosure may be made only in consultation with the Dean and Director of Libraries and University Counsel.

New York State Civil Practice Law & Rules 4509

Library records

Library records, which contain names or other personally identifying details regarding the users of public, free association, school, college and university libraries and library systems of this state, including but not limited to records relating to the circulation of library materials, computer database searches, interlibrary loan transactions, reference queries, requests for photocopies of library materials, title reserve requests, or the use of audio-visual materials, films or records, shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed except that such records may be disclosed to the extent necessary for the proper operation of the library and shall be disclosed upon request or consent of the user or pursuant to subpoena, court order or where otherwise required by statute.

Library users should also be aware that the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 increases the authority of federal investigative agencies to compel the disclosure of personal information through the use of orders issued by a federal court of lawful jurisdiction. Under provisions of the act, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and law enforcement officials may seek court orders for library records for investigations relevant to national security or terrorism. Libraries or librarians served with these orders may not disclose,

under penalty of law, the existence of the orders or the facts that records were produced as a result of the orders. Library users cannot be told that their records were given to law enforcement agencies or that they were the subjects of FBI investigations.