

Microsoft Against Libraries and Literature

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Created 25/07/2019 - 7:44am

Submitted by Roy Schestowitz on Thursday 25th of July 2019 07:44:48 AM Filed under [Microsoft](#) [1]

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For years, libraries across America have paid to subscribe to lynda.com for online learning content; four years ago, lynda.com became a division of LinkedIn, and this year, the company has informed libraries that they're migrating all lynda.com users to LinkedIn Learning, which would be fine, except LinkedIn only allows you to access LinkedIn Learning if you create and connect a LinkedIn profile to the system.

If libraries accept this change, it will mean that any patron who uses this publicly funded service will also have to have a publicly searchable LinkedIn profile. LinkedIn's explanation of why this is OK is purest tech-bro PR bullshit, condescending and dismissive.

- [ALA urges LinkedIn Learning to reconsider changes to terms of service that impair library users' privacy rights](#)[3]

Under LinkedIn Learning's new terms of service, a library cardholder will need to create a LinkedIn profile in order to access LinkedIn Learning. In addition to providing their library card number and PIN, users will have to disclose their full name and email address to create a new LinkedIn profile or connect to their existing profile. New users will have their LinkedIn profile set to public by default, allowing their full name to be searched on Google and LinkedIn.

ALA has long affirmed that the protection of library users' privacy and confidentiality rights are necessary for intellectual freedom and are fundamental to the ethical practice of librarianship. ALA's Library Bill of Rights and its interpretations maintain that all library users have the right to access library resources without disclosing their personally identifiable information (PII) to third parties, and to be free from unreasonable intrusion into, or surveillance of, their lawful library use.

?The requirement for users of LinkedIn Learning to disclose personally identifiable information is completely contrary to ALA policies addressing library users' privacy, and it may violate some states' library confidentiality laws,? said ALA President Wanda Kay Brown. ?It also violates the librarian's ethical obligation to keep a person's use of library resources confidential. We are deeply concerned about these changes to the terms of service and urge LinkedIn and its owner, Microsoft, to reconsider their position on this.?

[Microsoft](#)

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Links:

[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/62>

[2] <https://boingboing.net/2019/07/23/unclear-on-the-concept-3.html>

[3] <http://www.ala.org/news/member-news/2019/07/ala-urges-linkedin-learning-reconsider-changes-terms-service-impair-library>