



July 22, 2019

To: California librarians

From: Greg Lucas, State Librarian of California

Regarding: LinkedIn Learning

“The California State Library recommends you no longer provide LinkedIn Learning in your library until the company changes its new use policy so that it protects the privacy of library users.

Not only does LinkedIn Learning refuse to acknowledge the fundamental right to privacy that is central to the guarantee libraries make to their customers, but it seeks to use personal information provided by library patrons in various ways, including sharing it with third parties.

LinkedIn Learning is a rebranding of the Lynda.com online learning platform. LinkedIn Learning is part of LinkedIn, which is owned by Microsoft.

Currently, to access Lynda.com in a library, a person logs in using their library card and a PIN. No other personal information is required.

Under the newly rebranded LinkedIn Learning, library patrons would be required to create a personal profile and agree to LinkedIn’s user agreement and privacy policy before being able to use LinkedIn Learning. By agreeing to the user agreement and privacy policy, the user surrenders to LinkedIn the power to share the information contained in a user profile with whoever LinkedIn wants.

Here’s the bottom line, as expressed in the American Library Association’s [Library Bill of Rights](#):

“All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people’s privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.”