Library Freedom Institute

APPLICATION QUESTIONS + DETAILS

Last Updated: December 8th, 2019

About Library Freedom Institute

Library Freedom Institute (LFI) is a privacy-focused six-month program for librarians to teach them the skills necessary to thrive as privacy advocates; from installing privacy software to influencing public policy.

Participants will spend 5 hours per week on a combination of readings, webinars, exercises, class discussion, and assignments. LFI is an online course with one in-person requirement, which will take place on a weekend in New York City.

In order to be eligible to participate, applicants must complete the questions below and submit the attachments, including permission from a supervisor. There is no cost to this program, and that including the weekend in NYC.

Course Curriculum

Over this four-month course, you'll learn from staff and guest lecturers how to:

Understand the implications of surveillance and the loss of privacy in your communities.

Approach members of your community about privacy concerns.

Teach your own train-the-trainer workshops to other librarians.

Use your new role as a privacy advocate to influence policy and infrastructure.

Install and use privacy software to mitigate harms.

Program Timeline

Not all dates for LFI Cohort 3 have been established yet. We appreciate your patience as these dates become finalized.

Applications Due: February 10, 2020

Applicants Notified: February 24, 2020

LFI Cohort 3 Begins: March 9, 2020

Weekend in NYC: TBD

LFI Cohort 3 Ends: June 30, 2020

Requirements

In addition to the Application Questions on the next page, please also include:

1. A current resume or CV
2. Names and contact information for two references
3. A signed statement from a director or immediate supervisor committing five hours of your week to Library Freedom Institute

Please send application materials to alison@libraryfreedomproject.org **by February 10, 2020.**

Application Questions

Please submit your responses in a common document format (LibreOffice/ OpenOffice, MS Office, PDF). Responses to questions should be 2-5 pages and can be in a narrative format as long as all questions are answered.

What is your gender? (Asked to ensure gender diversity)

What is your race or ethnic identity? (Asked to ensure racial diversity)

Why are you applying to Library Freedom Institute?

Why are you the right person to participate in Library Freedom Institute?

How do surveillance and privacy issues affect the community where you work?

In your opinion, what is the most important current issue or event related to surveillance and privacy?

If accepted to Library Freedom Institute, are there particular days and times of the week that you would be available for one to two hours of online discussion in real time?

If you are not accepted to this round of the LFI, would you like to be considered for the next round in Spring 2021?

Frequently Asked Questions

Is Library Freedom Institute only for public librarians?

Our priority is for public librarians and others who engage with a diverse public directly, but we welcome applications from libraries who don't fit this criteria.

Is Library Freedom Institute only for librarians in the United States?

Our funding and curriculum require us to prioritize librarians within the United States, but we may be able to make some exceptions for exemplary applicants.

Do I really need a letter from a direct supervisor to be considered?

Since Library Freedom Institute is 100% free for participants, we need something guaranteeing your participation. If a supervisor letter isn't feasible for you, contact us to discuss options.