



POLICY - ACCESS TO AND RETENTION OF LIBRARY RECORDS

The Dane County Library Board, created by Chapter 15.27 Dane County Code of Ordinances in accordance with Chapter 43.57 (4) (b) Wisconsin Statutes, is responsible for overseeing the provision of county library services.

Pursuant to Sec. 19.33 (4) Wisconsin Statutes, the Dane County Library Board has designated the Library Director as legal custodian of all public records described in Sec. 19.32 (2) Wisconsin Statutes.

As provided by Sec. 43.30 Wisconsin Statutes, all records indicating the identity of any individual who borrows or uses library documents or other materials, resources, or services may not be disclosed except by court order, to persons acting within the scope of their duties in the administration of the library, or to a custodial parent or guardian of a child under the age of 16. Such custodial parent/guardian requests must be:

1. Made in person; and
2. Accompanied by a government agency-issued photo ID and other documents that demonstrate the requester is the custodial parent or guardian of the child whose records have been requested.

Dane County Library Service has established and currently follows these practices regarding record creation and retention:

1. The Library does not create records containing a user's personally identifiable information except those required for the efficient operation of the Library.
2. The Library does not retain records of individual user activity with personally identifiable information except those required for the efficient operation of the Library.

Specific types of library records may include:

Database Search Records:

- Searches of the collection using LINKcat, the online catalog: Once a search is conducted, the software does not retain a copy of the search. Records of the search no longer exist.
- Searches of other databases licensed by Dane County Library Service or the South Central Library System: No records of such searches are created.

Library Card Holder Information: The library creates and maintains a record of every library card holder. It includes the information the Library Service needs to identify and contact that individual.

Circulation Records: LINK circulation software tracks materials currently checked out, automatically erasing the item from an individual's borrowing record once an item is returned and any related late or damage fees are paid.

Homebound Circulation Records: Records are kept of books checked out and delivered to those physically unable to come to the library. The maintenance of these records allows staff to limit new shipments to items not previously loaned to the patron.

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Hold requests: The library creates and maintains a record of each request for a library item placed by a library patron within the LINKcat system. Records of such requests are maintained only until the requested item is made available to the patron.

Inter-Library Loan Records: Patrons may borrow items not owned by South Central Library System libraries from other libraries worldwide via Inter-Library Loan (ILL). The Dane County Library Service tracks items being borrowed and may generate a record with patron information. The Library keeps records until the item is returned to the owning library.

The Library Director is vested with full legal power to render decisions and carry out the duties described in Subchapter II of Chapter 19 Wisconsin Statutes governing public records and property.

Individuals may request public records of the Dane County Library Service at the Director's office, 1874 S Stoughton Rd, Madison between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for days when the office is closed pursuant to legal holidays established by county ordinance.

Copies of records on file may be obtained by specifying the document/s desired. Arrangements will be made with the Library Director to receive a copy of the requested material in a manner most expedient for the Library Service. If print copies need to be made, they will be furnished at the cost of \$.25/page.

Adopted by the Library Board
September 19, 1988
Amended December 7, 2000
Reviewed and confirmed without change February 7, 2002
Amended September 2, 2004
Reviewed and confirmed without change August 3, 2006
Reviewed and confirmed without change August 2, 2007
Reviewed and confirmed without change August 7, 2008
Reviewed and confirmed without change, August 5, 2010
Reviewed and amended, January 10, 2013
Reviewed and amended, May 7, 2015
Reviewed and amended September 4, 2025

Deleted: Subject Requests: A reference interview occurs when a person looking for information requests assistance from library staff. Frequently, such requests require staff to access other library collections not immediately available. In these cases, a record may be created and maintained until such time as the requested information is supplied to the library patron.¶

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Deleted: This office allows persons to make their own copies provided it can be done without disruption to office workflow. Copies are \$.25 per page. One page is defined as one side of a single sheet of paper not larger than 8 1/2" by 14". When the request is for a large amount of information, a...

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