Why libraries should fight for privacy
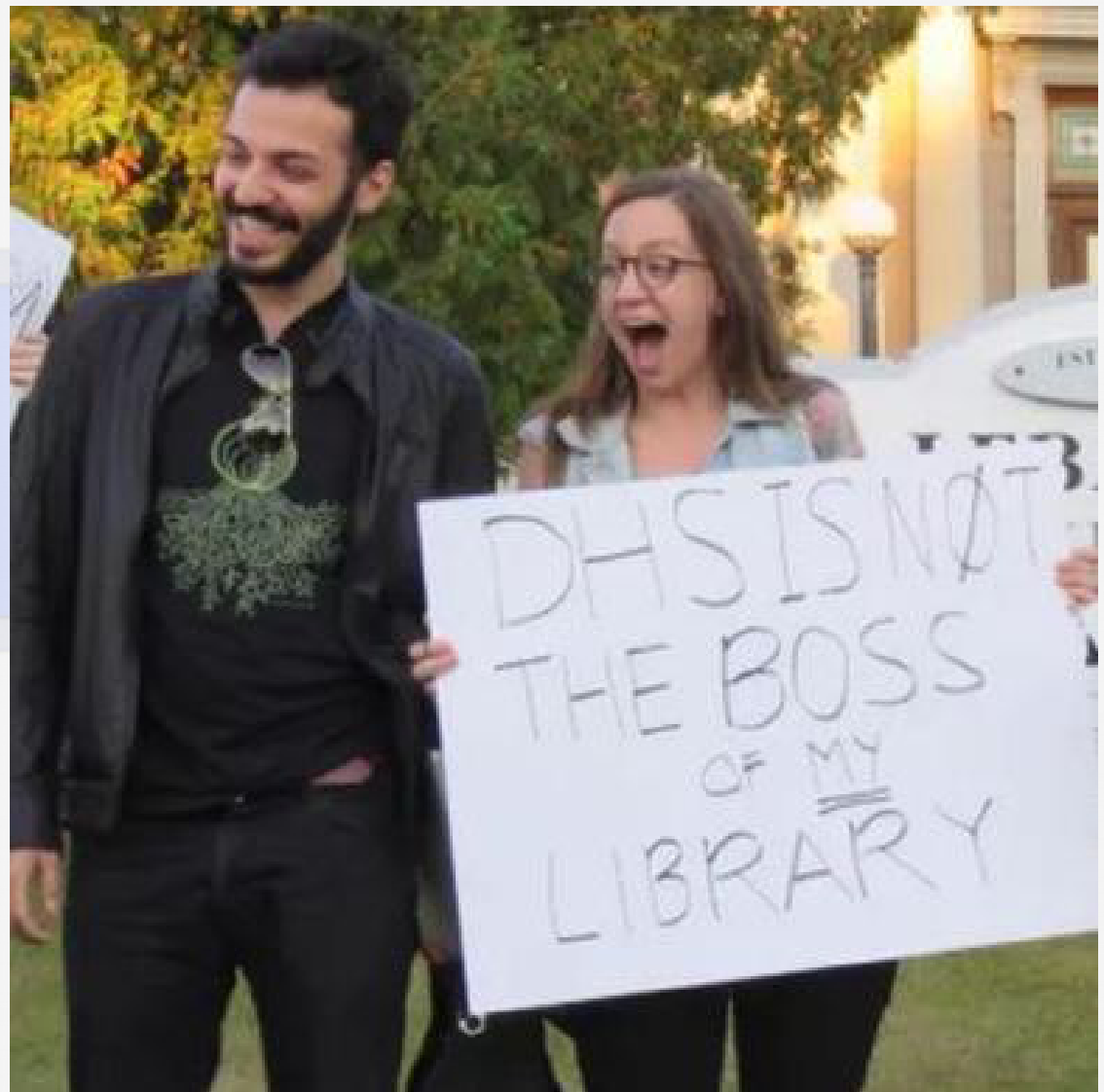
alison@libraryfreedomproject.org
libraryfreedomproject.org/privacytoolkit
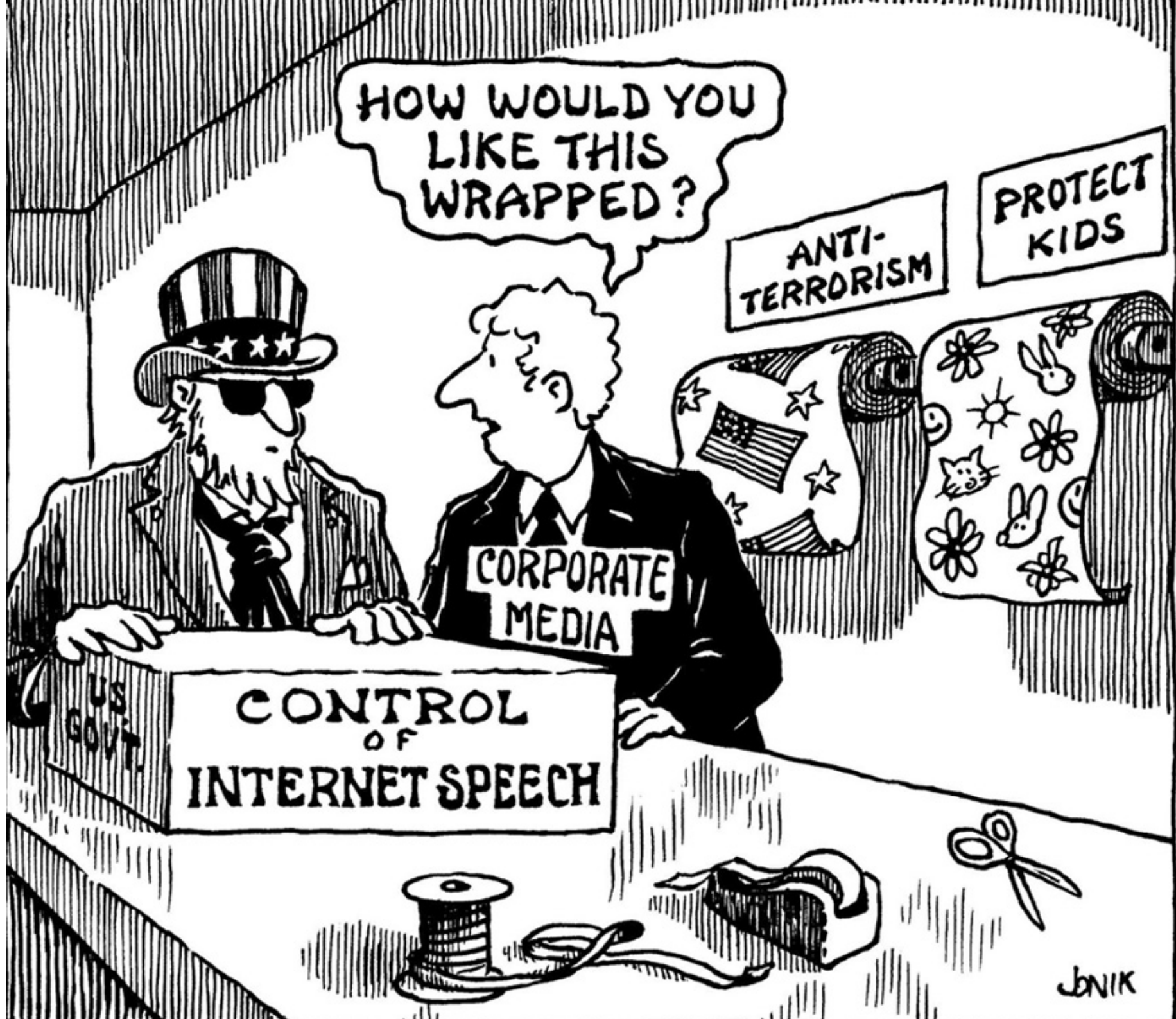
Library Freedom Project

WHO AM I ?

- Founder and director of LFP
- LFP works with ACLUs nationwide
- Core Contributor, The Tor Project
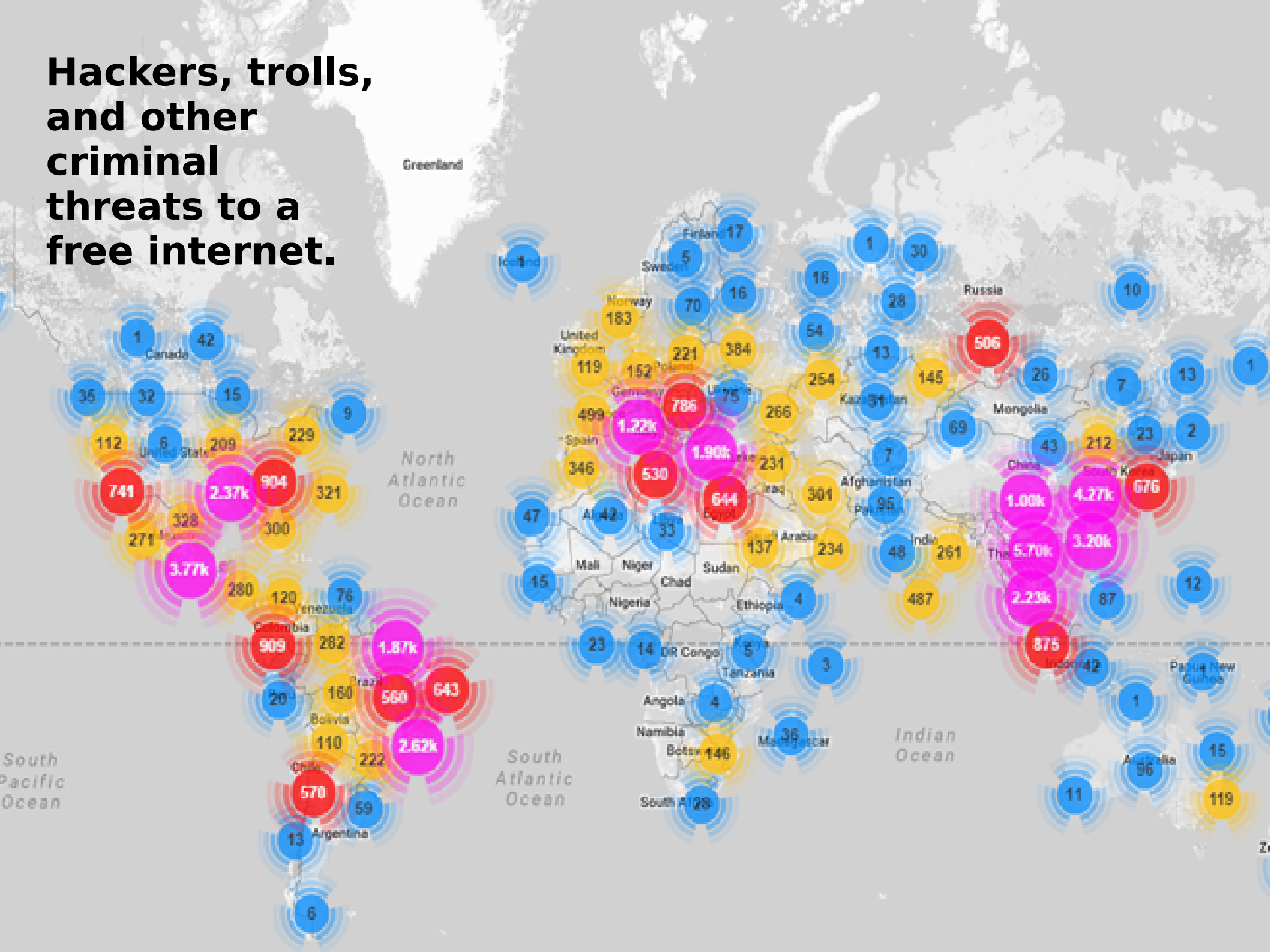- Library Journal Mover and Shaker 2015

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- **Corporate data collection**
- **The corporate filter bubble**
- **Our rights**
- **Corporate data and government surveillance**

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Hackers, trolls, and other criminal threats to a free internet.

FREADOM

Celebrate
the right to read.

The FBI
has not
been here

(watch very closely for removal of this sign)

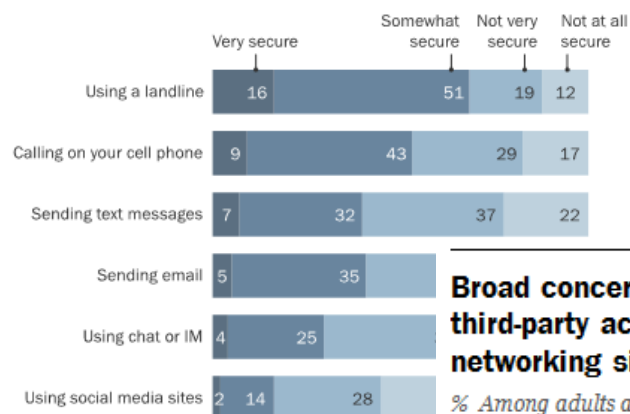# Public Perceptions of Privacy and Security in the Post-Snowden Era

The public feels most secure using landline phones, least secure on social media

% of adults who feel varying degrees of security when sharing private info with another trusted person or organization

	Very secure	Somewhat secure	Not very secure	Not at all secure
Using a landline	16	51	19	12
Calling on your cell phone	9	43	29	17
Sending text messages	7	32	37	22
Sending email	5	35		
Using chat or IM	4	25		
Using social media sites	2	14	28	

Source: Pew Research Privacy Panel Survey, January 2014. N= older.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Low levels of trust in government and advertisers

Among adults ages 18 and older

How often do you trust ___ to do the right thing?

	Government	Advertisers
Just about always	2%	1%
Most of the time	16	11
	67	71
	14	16

Panel Survey, January 2014. N=607

## Broad concern about government and third-party access to info on social networking sites

% Among adults ages 18 and older who use social networking sites

How concerned are you that some of the info you share on social networking sites might be accessed by ___ without your knowledge?

	The government	Third parties like advertisers or businesses
Very concerned	37	35
Somewhat concerned	34	45
Not too concerned	25	17
Not at all concerned	4	2

Most do not think it's a good thing for society if people believe they are being watched online

Among all adults, the % who agree it is a good thing for society if people believe that someone is keeping an eye on the things that they do online

Strongly agree	7
Agree	29
Disagree	42
Strongly disagree	20
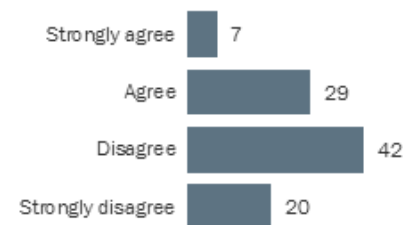
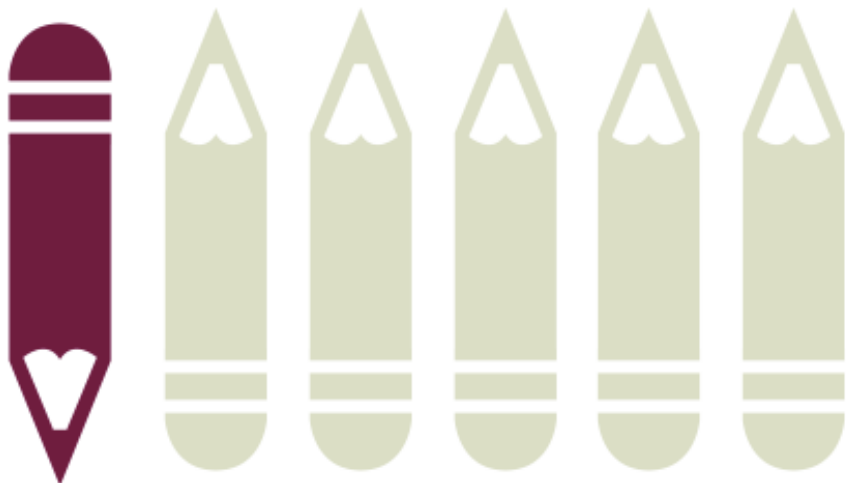Source: Pew Research Privacy Panel Survey, January 2014. N=607 adults, ages 18 and older.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Those who are more aware of gov't surveillance more likely to see communications channels as "not at all secure"

PEN AMERICA

free expression.
literature.

CHILLING EFFECTS:

NSA Surveillance Drives U.S. Writers to Self-Censor

1 in **6** writers has avoided writing or speaking on a topic they thought would subject them to surveillance.

Another **1** in **6** has seriously considered doing so.

Writers are not only overwhelmingly worried about government surveillance, but are engaging in self-censorship as a result:

28% have curtailed or avoided social media activities, and another **12%** have seriously considered doing so.
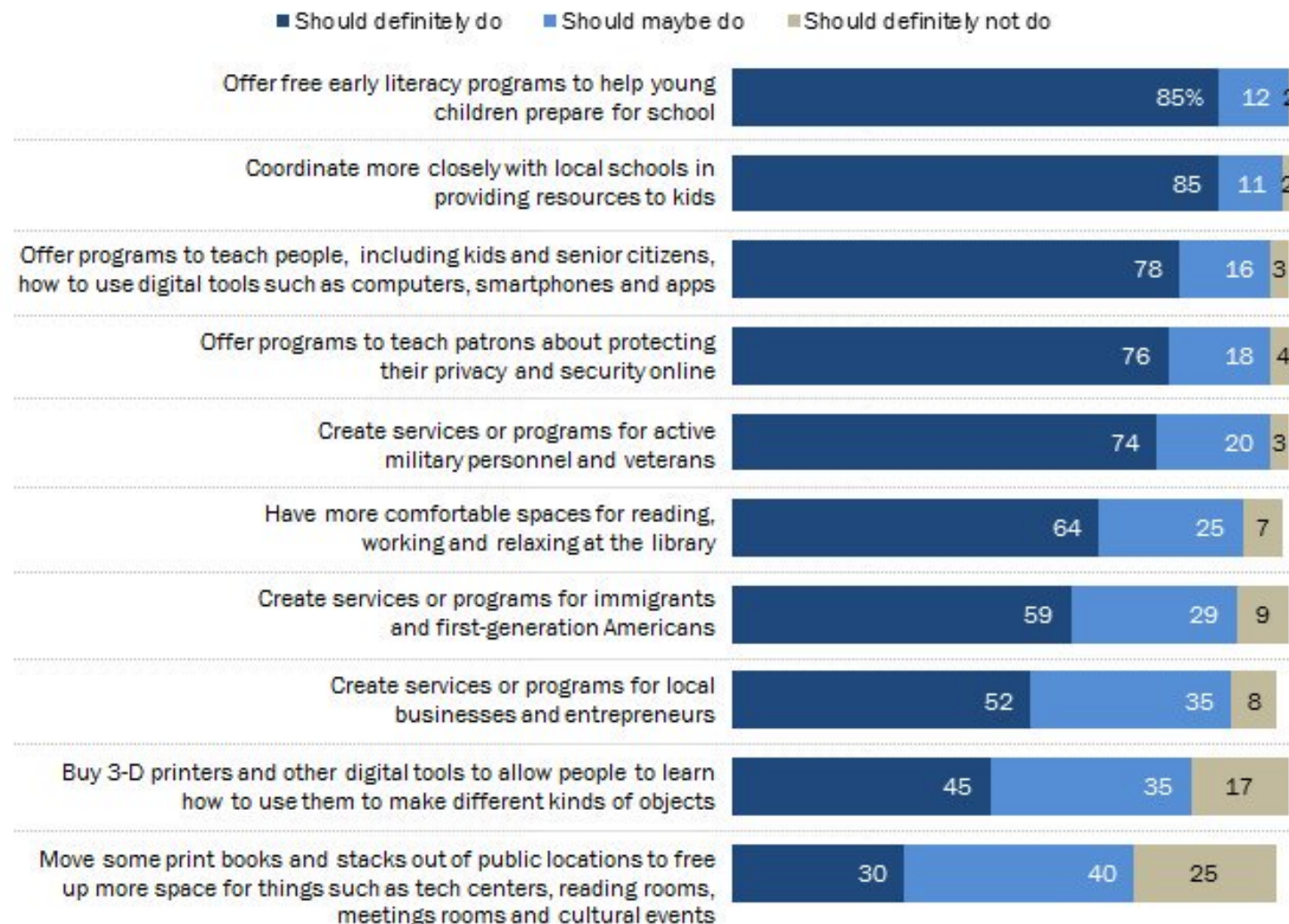
24% have deliberately avoided certain topics in phone or email conversations, and another **9%** have seriously considered it.

16% have avoided writing or speaking about a particular topic, and another **11%** have seriously considered it.

Public Wants Libraries to Advance Education, Improve Digital Literacy and Serve Key Groups

% of those ages 16+ who say that libraries should definitely, maybe or definitely not do these things

■ Should definitely do　■ Should maybe do　■ Should definitely not do

	Should definitely do	Should maybe do	Should definitely not do
Offer free early literacy programs to help young children prepare for school	85%	12	2
Coordinate more closely with local schools in providing resources to kids	85	11	2
Offer programs to teach people, including kids and senior citizens, how to use digital tools such as computers, smartphones and apps	78	16	3
Offer programs to teach patrons about protecting their privacy and security online	76	18	4
Create services or programs for active military personnel and veterans	74	20	3
Have more comfortable spaces for reading, working and relaxing at the library	64	25	7
Create services or programs for immigrants and first-generation Americans	59	29	9
Create services or programs for local businesses and entrepreneurs	52	35	8
Buy 3-D printers and other digital tools to allow people to learn how to use them to make different kinds of objects	45	35	17
Move some print books and stacks out of public locations to free up more space for things such as tech centers, reading rooms, meetings rooms and cultural events	30	40	25

https://libraryfreedomproject.org

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- **When libraries fight for privacy, the media notices**
- **The Nation cover in May 2015**
- **ProPublica, Wired, All Things Considered, Christian Science Monitor, and more.**
- **FSF's Award for Social Benefit**
- **Library Journal's Movers and Shakers**
- **Daily Dot's 2015 Internet Heroes**

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Saying you don't care about your privacy because you have nothing to hide is like saying you don't care about your freedom of speech because you have nothing to say.
- paraphrasing Ed Snowden

What should we do?

- **ALA best practices on privacy**
  - **Data retention policies**
  - **Vendor agreements**
- **ACLU Know Your Rights**
  - **Info request policy (LE)**

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ALA GUIDELINES

- Library Privacy Guidelines for Public Access Computers and Networks
- Library Privacy Guidelines for Library Websites, OPACs, and Discovery Services
- Library Privacy Guidelines for Library Management Systems
- Library Privacy Guidelines for Data Exchange Between Networked Devices and Services
- Library Privacy Guidelines for E-book Lending and Digital Content Vendors
- Library Privacy Guidelines for Students in K-12 Schools

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SURVEILLANCE SELF-DEFENSE

Library Freedom Project

CRYPTO PARTY

https://libraryfreedomproject.org

Library Freedom Project

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libraryfreedomproject.org/privacytoolkit

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