

QUICK START GUIDE About User Privacy

This overview provides PLS Member Library users with a summary of the information that will be collected in connection PLS Member Library's new catalog, powered by BiblioCommons, as well as a summary of how BiblioCommons and PLS Member Libraries will use that information.

We encourage all patrons who use the BiblioCommons Service to read the BiblioCommons Privacy Policy as well as PLS' Privacy Policy. Those are the full and legally binding policies.

They are the only documents that govern the collection and use of user information by PLS and BiblioCommons. This document should not be relied upon as an agreement or policy—it is just a summary.

What information may be stored when I use the BiblioCommons Service?

BiblioCommons stores two types of information: (i) Personal Information (e.g., your library barcode, PIN, ID, and name; and optionally your month of birth, and email address) and (ii) Shared Content (content you may contribute to the BiblioCommons online community such as reviews, lists of favorite books, comments, and online conversations you have with other users through personal messages).

Is my personal information shared with other users?

If you choose to create Shared Content, a display name of your choice will appear alongside it. That display name is the only personal information that will be shared. The BiblioCommons Service will not make any other personal information visible to other users.

Is my borrowing history visible to other users?

No. Your borrowing history is visible only to you.

Who can see My Shelves and other Shared Content?

If you contribute information about books, movies, or music, or add items to Lists or My Shelves, this information will be shared by default.

Can I make information on My Shelves private?

Every title has a place for private notes and tags. You can also mark individual titles as "private" if you choose.

Do I have to share content?

No. If you are uncomfortable with the idea of sharing content with others you can register and use BiblioCommons without ever creating Shared Content. Just don't enter comments, send messages, create public lists, etc. You can still benefit from BiblioCommons greatly improved search and account management functionality

What control do I have over my Shared Content?

Shared Content, such as Lists you create, may be deleted or edited by you at any time after you have posted it on BiblioCommons. However, like all content posted on the web, your Shared Content may be copied or indexed by third parties. If you do not remove Shared Content from BiblioCommons, then it may be displayed by your local library and BiblioCommons indefinitely. If you choose to send messages to other users, you cannot delete them from the recipient's inboxes. Account Settings allow you to change your username (which is displayed publicly only if you choose to create lists, comments, messages, etc.).

What will PLS and BiblioCommons do with information I provide?

The answer to this question depends on the type of information in question. Some of the information is simply used in order to provide library services. Other information may be used for statistical purposes. In some cases (such as, for example, Shared Content that you make publicly available) the information may be used by BiblioCommons, by PLS, and even by other users of the BiblioCommons Service for a broad range of purposes. Please read the BiblioCommons Terms of Service (in particular look at the section entitled "Shared Content") for more information. In all instances, information that BiblioCommons and PLS store is subject to disclosure pursuant to subpoena, court order, or as otherwise authorized by applicable law.