



## Top 10 Privacy Books/Articles

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01. [The Right to Privacy](#) (Harvard Law Review, 1890)
  - a. Warren and Brandeis seminal law review article that first articulated the “Right to be let alone”
02. [1984](#) (George Orwell, 1948)
  - a. “The dystopia described in George Orwell’s nearly 70-year-old novel “1984” suddenly feels all too familiar. A world in which Big Brother (or maybe the National Security Agency) is always listening in, and high-tech devices can eavesdrop in people’s homes.”
03. [Privacy and Freedom](#) (Alan Westin, 1967)
  - a. Alan Westin’s seminal book was the most important discussion of privacy since Warren and Brandies “Right to Privacy” article in 1890
04. [Database Nation](#) (Simson Garfinkel, 2001)
  - a. This account of how invasive technologies will affect our lives in the coming years poses a disturbing question: how can we protect our basic rights to privacy, identity, and autonomy when technology is making invasion and control easier than ever before
05. [Delete The Virtue of Forgetting in the Digital Age](#) (Viktor Mayer-Schönberger, 2011)
  - a. Delete looks at the surprising phenomenon of perfect remembering in the digital age and traces the role that forgetting has played throughout human history, from the ability to make sound decisions unencumbered by the past, to the possibility of second chances. The author explains why information privacy rights can't help us, and proposes a solution--expiration dates on information
06. [Only Sheep Let Themselves Be Counted](#) (2012)
  - a. Article that explores the 1983 / 87 West German Census Boycotts, where citizens protested the planned census on the grounds it violated the right to privacy, or right to informational self-determination implicit in the country’s constitutional commitment to human dignity and the free development of the individual personality
07. [The Circle](#) (Dave Eggers, 2013)
  - a. This dystopian novel imagines a world being influenced and controlled by a fictional mash-up of Google and Facebook. The protagonist takes readers on a journey to a place where Secrets are Lies. Sharing is Caring. And Privacy is Theft
08. [Dragnet Nation](#) (Julia Angwin, 2014)
  - a. In a world where we can be watched in our own homes, where we can no longer keep secrets, and where we can be impersonated, financially manipulated, or even placed in a police lineup, the author argues that the greatest long-term

danger is that we start to internalize the surveillance and censor our words and thoughts, until we lose the very freedom that makes us unique individuals

09. [The Known Citizen: A History of Privacy in Modern America](#)

- a. Privacy was not always a matter of public import. But beginning in the late nineteenth century, increasing numbers of citizens believed their privacy to be endangered. The author tracks this elusive social value across the twentieth century, as individuals questioned how they would, and should, be known by their own society.

10. [Privacy in the Modern Age](#) (Marc Rotenberg, ed., 2015)

- a. “The contributors to this anthology don’t simply describe these problems or warn about the loss of privacy—they propose solutions. They look closely at business practices, public policy, and technology design and ask, “Should this continue? Is there a better approach?” They take seriously the dictum of Thomas Edison: “What one creates with his hand, he should control with his head.””

Some ALA Resources

- American Library Association. (2014). *Privacy: an interpretation of the library bill of rights*. Washington, D.C.: American Library Association. Retrieved from <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/privac>
- American Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee. (2014). *Questions and answers on privacy and confidentiality*. Washington, D.C.: American Library Association. Retrieved from <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/privacy/FA>
- American Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee. (2016) *Library privacy guidelines for library websites, OPACs, and discovery services*. Washington, D.C.: American Library Association. Retrieved from <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/privacy/guidelines/OPAC>