	<b>Document Title</b>	Recommendations to the NSDL Community for Privacy Policy Implementation
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## Recommendations to the NSDL Community for Privacy Policy Implementation

### Introduction

#### Community Sign On

#### The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)

### Introduction

Privacy policies are a vital trust component of any website. A comprehensive, easy to find, and easy to read privacy policy supports good relationships between a website and its users. Conversely, privacy policies that are hard to find, hard to read, or otherwise hard to use can damage the trust that a user has in a website.

A clear and comprehensive privacy policy is particularly important for a web site that offers services to young people in educational settings traditionally associated with trust.


The information offered here is provided to the NSDL community of partners as support for adoption or revision to their own privacy policies. The [NSDL Privacy Policy](#) is suggested as a model for community use. Please bear in mind that if your site obtains information from children under the age of 13, you may be required to comply with the terms of the [Children's Online Privacy Protection Act \(COPPA\)](#).

### Community Sign On

The National Science Digital Library (NSDL) employs a user registration service known as Community Sign-on (CSO), which allows NSDL users to create a user account that permits seamless transitions between multiple NSDL sites that require individual user registrations.

Libraries/projects adopting CSO should clearly describe for users what information is collected by CSO and should clearly explain to users the purpose of CSO and any safeguards in place to protect the information gathered by CSO. Further, such projects/libraries should consider publishing a privacy policy that accurately and fully identifies all user information collected, describes how such user information is used by the project/library, states whether such information is ever made available to third parties, and otherwise complies with the law and the requirements of the applicable sponsoring organization or institution.

Questions about CSO may be addressed to the **Email NSDL** service at <http://nsdl.org/about/contactus/>

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### **The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)**

The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) governs the protection of the privacy of web site users under the age of thirteen years. It is enforced by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). Further information on requirements and guidance to compliance is available at:

- [Drafting a COPPA-Compliant Privacy Policy](#) (FTC)
- [How to Comply with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Rule](#) (FTC)
- [Education and Guidance](#) – Children's Privacy (FTC)– multiple links to guidance on COPPA, including guides for teachers