Thank you to everyone! No need to sign as Follett just changed their minds.
If there is interest, I can rewrite as a “thank you for not doing that” letter!

Greetings,

Following continued feedback and discussions with librarians and industry partners regarding a potential parental control module for Destiny Library Manager, we have concluded **we will NOT proceed with any plans to develop this module** and as a result, will be cancelling Monday’s webchat.

At Follett, our mission is to support librarians and get books into the hands of students. We support the American Library Association’s Library Bill of Rights, and we are focused on advancing – not limiting – the role of the librarian and the school library.

We take very seriously the feedback we have received from librarians and our industry partners regarding legislation on these matters. We will continue to work directly with impacted districts to understand these new laws.

Thanks for your continued support.

Best,

Britten Follett, CEO, Follett, Content
Paul Ilse, CEO, Follett, Software

To sign this document, please fill out this Google form: https://forms.gle/iCAqDVV72Yfzb7qz8

- Signatures will be added until **10 am on Monday 4/4/22**, when I will send this petition to Follett
- I will include all of the signatures submitted but **will not add them to this public document**.
- Additional formal statements will likely be issued by our professional organizations, using comments added to the original document, but will take longer to craft.
- Find more resources here, consider signing this national petition, and register for Monday’s webinar.

To: Britten Follett, CEO, Follett, Content
Paul Ilse, CEO, Follett, Software

Re: Follett Statement Issued on March 30, 2022

Dear Britten Follett, Paul J. Ilse, Follett, and Francisco Partners:

Oregon’s library community was alarmed and disturbed to learn recently that Follett is considering changes to their Destiny software that would aid censorship efforts. The majority of our school libraries use your

software and order books from Follett. We strongly oppose any decision to put resources into the development of tools that would impede the freedom to read.

These modules, as described in news articles, violate those freedoms:

- “An automatic email notification for parents, which would be sent to them any time a student checks a book out at school” and could include a summary or more about the book”
- A feature “restricting students’ access to certain books based on parents’ prior requests. For example, a parent could request that a student not be able to check out a book tagged as LGBTQ in Destiny”

The add-ons may be “optional,” but school librarians and technology directors in some districts would be under intense pressure from their communities, school boards, and/or administrators to turn on those options. Should you add the controversial features in question, where would it end? We have seen too many news stories of school boards and school administrators with little or no understanding of student intellectual freedom issues who make decisions that run counter to our professional ethics and values.

We do not believe it is “divisive” for librarians to stand up for a core value of librarianship: the freedom to read. Also, in your concern for laws that “require compliance,” know that restricting a students’ right to access information would likely be unconstitutional on first amendment grounds. If this were truly about library software companies complying with state laws, other library software systems would likely be making the same changes – and at least one of your major competitors has no plans to do so.

It may be the case that Francisco Partners, the new owners of Follett Destiny software, do not fully understand how school libraries work or hold the same values as their customer base. However, we urge you to learn more about intellectual freedom issues in libraries and then to issue a statement pledging not to make decisions that will place you firmly on the side of the censors.

Signed,
Miranda Doyle, Intellectual Freedom Advocate, Oregon Association of School Libraries + submitted signatures
Add your signature using this form