Law Enforcement Investigations in the Library Cheat Sheet

When law enforcement (LE) is on site and conducting an investigation:

- 1. Ask for their name(s) and agency/agencies to verify their identity.
- 2. Notify the library director and others, as trained.
- 3. Library workers should say: "We are referring you to our director, as we are trained to not disclose library information."
- 4. Library leadership should PROMPTLY contact an attorney to evaluate warrants, court orders, subpoenas, and requests for I-9 forms per policy; sometimes, the attorney should be the one to reply to LE.
- 5. NO ONE should grant access to private areas or systems until an LE request is evaluated per library policy.
- 6. If LE attempts to obtain access after being denied, do not resist but clearly say: "ACCESS IS DENIED." This may be helpful later.
- 7. Document everything per library policy.

Never physically intervene or argue if search or seizure occurs without proper authorization, it will be more helpful to be able to say later: "We repeatedly said, 'Access is not granted."



(For an explanation of the chicken, watch Stephanie "Cole" Adams' presentation, "Patrolling the Stacks" sponsored by ESLN.)