custodian of the records, or by another person duly authorized to release such information." The list of protected records includes the "records of a library which, by themselves or when examined with other public records, would reveal the identity of the library patron checking out or requesting an item or information from the library." With respect to library patron records, the statute provides further that the "records shall be released to a criminal or juvenile justice agency only pursuant to an investigation of a particular person or organization suspected of committing a known crime" and may only be released "upon a judicial determination that a rational connection exists between the requested release of information and a legitimate end and that the need for the information is cogent and compelling." IOWA CODE § 22.7 (2008).

KANSAS
The Kansas legislature has mandated that "[e]xcept to the extent disclosure is otherwise required by law," public agencies are not required to disclose a number of public records, including "[l]ibrary patron and circulation records which pertain to identifiable individuals." KAN. STAT. ANN. § 45-221 (2007).

KENTUCKY
The state of Kentucky does not provide statutory protection for library patron records. Two attorney general opinions, however, advise that libraries may refuse to disclose library circulation records. In 1981, the attorney general issued the following opinion: "You have requested an opinion of the Attorney General as to whether records of public libraries are mandatorily required to be open to the public under the Open Records Law . . . [and] [i]t is our opinion that they are not" (OAG 81-159 [April 21, 1981] [Opinion by Steven L. Beshear, Attorney General, and Carl Miller, Assistant Attorney General to Mr. James A. Nelson, State Librarian and Commissioner]). The advisory opinion states further that "[w]e think that the individual's privacy rights as to what he borrows from a public library (books, motion picture film, periodicals and any other matter) is overwhelming" and "[i]n fact we can see no public interest at all to put in the scales opposite the privacy rights of the individual" (id.). The attorney general noted, however, that "Kentucky has no privacy statute and that the exceptions to mandatory disclosure of public records are permissive and no law is violated if they are not observed by the custodian" (id.). The attorney general opinion stated in summary that "it is our opinion that the custodian of the registration and circulation records of a public library is not required to make such records available for public inspection under the Open Records Law" (id.).

In 1982, the attorney general reiterated that "all libraries may refuse to disclose for public inspection their circulation records" (OAG 82-149 [March 12, 1982] [Opinion by Steven L. Beshear, Attorney General, and Carl Miller, Assistant Attorney General to Mr. James A. Nelson, State Librarian and Commissioner]). The advisory opinion states further that "[a]s far as the Open Records Law is concerned, they may also make the records open if they so choose; however, we believe that the privacy rights which are inherent in a democratic society should constrain all libraries to keep their circulation lists confidential" (id.).

LOUISIANA
The Louisiana state legislature has mandated that "records of any library which is in whole or in part supported by public funds, including the records of public, academic, school, and special libraries, and the State Library of Louisiana, indicating which of its documents or other materials, regardless of format, have been loaned to or used by an identifiable individual or group of individuals may not be disclosed except to a parent or custodian of a minor child seeking access to that child's records, to persons acting within the scope of their duties in the administration of the library, to persons authorized in writing by the individual or group of individuals to inspect such records, or by order of a court of law." The statute provides, however, that "[n]o provision of this Section shall be so construed as to prohibit or hinder any library or any business office operating jointly with a library from collecting overdue books, documents, films, or other items and/or materials owned or otherwise belonging to such library, nor shall any provision of this Section be so construed as to prohibit or hinder any such library or business office from collecting fines on such overdue books, documents, films, or other items and/or materials." Moreover, the statute provides that "[n]o provision of this section shall be so construed as to prohibit or hinder any library or librarian from providing information to appropriate law enforcement officers investigating criminal activity in the library witnessed by an employee or patron of the library and reported by the administrative librarian to the appropriate law enforcement officials." The statute defines "criminal activity" as a crime occurring in a library building, on library property, or "near a library and the proximity of such activity to a library or library property constitutes an element of the offense." The statute clarifies that the "information" that may be disclosed in a criminal investigation "shall include but not be limited to electronic data files, security surveillance video tapes, or other records or materials which may constitute evidence which would assist law enforcement officers in identifying the individual or group of individuals who may have committed criminal activity in the library." LA. REV. STAT. § 44:13 (2007).