

Rubo Privacy Notice

What information Rubo collects when you interact with it — and the choices you have

Effective date: Sept 23, 2026

About Rubo

Rubo is a friendly, AI-powered robot assistant which can answer questions and help you find information and directions within the Stony Brook University Libraries (the “Libraries”) and may offer optional interactions such as a handshake or high-five. Rubo was created through a collaboration among the Libraries and the departments of Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering, and Technology, AI and Society (the “project team”).

This notice explains what information Rubo collects when you interact with it, how that information is used and protected, and the choices available to you. Rubo is currently part of a pilot program, and your interactions help Stony Brook University evaluate and improve how it works.

What Rubo collects

When you interact with Rubo, it may collect:

- **Audio of your interaction.** Rubo records the questions you ask and its responses. Audio is Rubo’s main input — it listens in order to understand and answer you.
- **Images and video.** Rubo may utilize a camera to detect a user’s position so Rubo can turn toward the user and recognize certain movements, such as waving, allowing Rubo to wave back. The camera processes visual information for detection purposes only; Rubo will not record, save, or retain any images or videos.

Rubo does not ask for your name, contact information, or other personal details, and you do not need to provide any to interact with it. **Please note, however, that a recording of your voice — or an image of your face — may still be capable of identifying you.**

How the Libraries use this information

Stony Brook University Libraries use information collected by Rubo to:

- Understand and respond to your questions during your interaction;
- Evaluate, monitor, and improve Rubo’s accuracy, safety, and performance; and
- Support research and evaluation of the Rubo pilot program.

The pilot has been reviewed by Stony Brook University’s Institutional Review Board (IRB), which determined that Rubo does not constitute human subjects research and therefore does not require IRB approval. Rubo operates with built-in controls and guardrails designed to keep its behavior appropriate and consistent.

How the Libraries share information

- **No sale of your information.** The University does not sell information collected by Rubo.
- **Processing by an external large language model provider.** To generate responses, information you submit to Rubo may be sent to and processed by a third-party large language model provider that is not part of Stony Brook University. The Libraries use provider API services where necessary subject to the provider’s data-use terms; where applicable, data submitted through the API is not used to train the provider’s general-purpose models.

- **Any analytical results shared externally are aggregated or de-identified.** If findings from the pilot are published or presented, they include only aggregated or de-identified information which does not identify any individual. The Libraries do not share information that identifies you outside the University for marketing or commercial purposes.
- **Limited internal access.** Within the University, access to recordings is limited to the project team and personnel who support and oversee the pilot.

How long information is kept

The Libraries keep recordings only as long as needed for the purposes described in this notice — typically no longer than 18 months — after which they are deleted or de-identified in accordance with applicable University records policies.

How information is protected

The Libraries apply administrative and technical safeguards to protect information collected by Rubo, including restricted access and controls that limit how the system behaves and how recordings are stored and handled.

Your choices

- **Interacting with Rubo is voluntary.** You can choose not to approach or speak with Rubo.
- **A library staff is available.** A staff member is present during Rubo's public interactions and can assist you or answer questions in Rubo's place.
- **Questions or requests about your information.** Contact the University Privacy Office using the information below.

Younger visitors

The Libraries serve visitors of all ages. Rubo does not knowingly seek personal information from children, and a staff member is present to supervise its public interactions. Parents, guardians, or caregivers with questions may speak with library staff or contact the Stony Brook University Privacy Office.

Changes to this notice

The University may update this notice as the pilot develops or as Rubo's features change. The current version and its effective date always appear at the top of this notice.

Contact us

Questions about this notice or the information Rubo collects? Please contact:

Office of the Chief Privacy Officer

Stony Brook University

privacy@stonybrook.edu

You may also contact the University Libraries: sbu_libraries@stonybrook.edu