



## Oldham County Public Library Internet Filtering Policy

Since November 2002, all Oldham County Public Library System (OCPL) computers are automatically set to filtered Internet access in order to comply with the 2000 Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). CIPA requires that libraries receiving federal funding filter all computers with Internet access.

By law, Internet accessible computers will not be unblocked for patrons under the age of 18. Adult patrons may request unfiltered access as long as they have read the OCPL's Internet Use Policy and abide by its tenets. Individual sites may be unblocked by the Librarian.

The library blocks by both content and URL using the Smart Filter Bess filtering product distributed by Secure Computing Corporation. The filter is set to block certain categories of information and certain URLs. Categories blocked include:

Sexually explicit sites	Criminal activities
Remote proxies	Hate/ discriminatory Sites
Violence	Malicious sites
Drugs / alcohol	Nudity
Gambling	Phishing
Anonymizers (hackers)	Pornography
Anonymizing utilities	Spyware / adware

Please remember that no Internet filter is 100% effective. A filter may allow objectionable information to be accessed. Although the Library filters all Internet traffic, not every web page has been categorized and therefore the Library cannot be held responsible for material downloaded from the Internet. The Library does not act "in loco parentis" and therefore parents or legal guardians are ultimately responsible for their children's use of the Internet.

Filters may also block legitimate sites in error. Patrons with questions concerning the Internet filters should speak to the librarian.

### **Explicit Violations of the OCPL Internet Acceptable Use Policy**

- Uses that violate the law or encourage others to violate the law
- Uses that violate state or federal obscenity or sexual harassment laws, which includes viewing or printing sexually explicit materials in public areas
- Uses that cause harm to others or damage to their property or to the Library's property
- Uses that jeopardize the security of access of the computer network or other networks on the Internet
- Uses that compromise the safety and security of minors when using e-mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications
- Uses that Violate Confidentiality of Information
- Users may not save documents to the hard drive (USB drives available at desk)
- Users may not install applications or Internet plug-in applications
- Users may not attempt to modify, abuse, or harm the computer in any way
- Users may not use any proxy website or application

This policy becomes effective on March 8, 2008, and replaces any previous policy written or implied. The Board of Trustees of the Oldham County Public Library reserves the right to amend, alter or revoke this policy if it is deemed necessary and desirable to do so.

*Adopted March 8, 2008*

*Reviewed February 4, 2010*