Introduction

Code of Virginia §42.1-36.1 directs the Librarian of Virginia to submit a report to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Education, House Committee on Science and Technology, and the Senate Committee on Education and Health, which summarizes the acceptable use policies filed with the Librarian.

As indicated in the Code of Virginia, each policy shall contain provisions which

> i.   are designed to prohibit use by library employees and patrons of the library's computer equipment and communication services for sending, receiving, viewing or downloading illegal material via the internet,
>
> ii. seek to prevent access by library patrons under the age of eighteen to material which is harmful to juveniles, and
>
> iii. establish appropriate measures to be taken against persons who violate the policy.

Following is the report that has been prepared in response to this directive.

List of Policies on File

The Library of Virginia has on file Acceptable Internet Use Policies from all 90 public libraries. Below is a list of the libraries:

Alexandria Library System
Amherst County Public Library
Appomattox Regional Library
Arlington County Department of Libraries
Augusta County Library
Bedford Public Library
Blackwater Regional Library
Blue Ridge Regional Library
Botetourt County Library
Bristol Public Library
Buchanan County Public Library
Campbell County Public Library
Caroline Library, Inc.
Central Rappahannock Regional Library
Central Virginia Regional Library
Charles P. Jones Memorial Library
Charlotte County Library
Chesapeake Public Library System
Chesterfield County Public Library

Clifton Forge Public Library
Colonial Heights Public Library
Culpeper County Library
Cumberland County Public Library
Danville Public Library
Eastern Shore Public Library
Essex Public Library
Fairfax County Public Library
Fauquier County Public Library
Fluvanna County Library
Franklin County Public Library
Galax-Carroll Public Library
Gloucester Library
Halifax County/South Boston Public Library
Hampton Public Library
Handley Library
Henrico County Public Library
Heritage Library
Iris Brammer Public Library
J. Robert Jamerson Memorial Library
James L. Hamner Public Library
Jefferson-Madison Regional Library
Lancaster County Public Library
Lewis Egerton Smoot Memorial Library
Lonesome Pine Regional Library
Loudon County Public Library
Lynchburg Public Library
Madison County Library, Inc.
Mary Riley Styles Public Library
Massanutten Regional Library
Mathews Memorial Library
Meherrin Regional Library
Middlesex County Public Library
Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library
Newport News Public Library System
Norfolk Public Library
Northumberland County Public Library
Nottoway County Library
Orange County Public Library
Pamunkey Regional Library
Pearisburg Public Library
Petersburg Public Library
Pittsylvania County Public Library
Poquoson Public Library
Portsmouth Public Library
Powhatan County Public Library

Prince William Public Library
Pulaski County Library
Radford Public Library
Rappahannock County Library
Richmond County Library
Richmond Public Library
Roanoke City Public Library
Roanoke County Public Library
Rockbridge Regional Library
Russell County Public Library
Salem Public Library
Samuels Public Library
Shenandoah County Library
Smyth-Bland Regional Library
Southside Regional Library
Staunton Public Library
Suffolk Public Library System
Tazewell County Public Library
Virginia Beach Public Library
Washington County Public Library
Waynesboro Public Library
Williamsburg Regional Library
Wythe-Grayson Regional Library
York County Public Library of Virginia

Summary

All of the Acceptable Internet Use policies clearly state that the library's computer equipment and communication services must not be used to access illegal materials.

Policies seek to prevent access by library patrons under the age of 18 to material which is harmful to juveniles in a variety of ways. Usually at a minimum written parental permission is required before a library patron under 18 may use the library's computers. Many require direct parental supervision for library patrons under the age of 12 or 13. Many restrict young patrons to using computers with filtering software unless under direct parental supervision or parental permission to use unfiltered computers has been granted. Some libraries have installed privacy screens to reduce the possibility to inadvertent exposure to harmful material.

Violations of the Acceptable Internet Use Policy are handled in several different ways depending on the severity of the infraction and the frequency. Most policies deny access to the library's computers and the Internet for a limited time for violating the Acceptable Internet Use Policy. If the infraction is illegal, most policies indicate that the offenders will be open to prosecution. Repeated

violations of the Acceptable Internet Use Policy result in permanent ban from either the library's computers, the library, or both.