

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, the 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 18 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 91 public libraries. Below is a list of the libraries:

Alexandria Library System
Amherst County Public Library
Appomattox Regional Library System
Arlington County Department of Libraries
Augusta County Library
Bedford Public Library System
Blackwater Regional Library
Blue Ridge Regional Library
Botetourt County Libraries
Bristol Public Library
Buchanan County Public Library
Campbell County Public Library System
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
Craig County 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 Public Library
Franklin County Public Library
Galax-Carroll Regional Library
Gloucester Public Library
Halifax County–South Boston Regional Library
Hampton Public Library
Handley Regional Library
Henrico County Public Library
Heritage Library
Highland County Public Library
Iris Brammer Public Library
J. Robert Jamerson Memorial Library
James L. Hamner Public Library
Jefferson-Madison Regional Library
Lancaster Community Public Library
Lewis Egerton Smoot Memorial Library
Lonesome Pine Regional Library
Loudoun County Public Library
Lynchburg Public Library
Madison County Library, Inc.
Mary Riley Styles Public Library
Massanutten Regional Library
Mathews Memorial Library
Meherrin Regional Library System
Middlesex County Public Library
Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library
Newport News Public Library System
Norfolk Public Library
Northumberland Public Library
Nottoway County Library
Orange County Public Library
Pamunkey Regional Library
Pearisburg Public Library
Petersburg Public Library System
Pittsylvania County Public Library
Poquoson Public Library

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

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.

Through a variety of methods, policies seek to prevent access by library patrons under the age of 18 to material which is harmful to juveniles. Usually, at a minimum, written parental permission is required before a library patron under age 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 unless parental permission to use unfiltered computers has been granted. Some libraries have installed privacy screens to reduce the possibility of inadvertent exposure to harmful material.

Violations of the Acceptable Internet Use Policy are handled in several different ways, depending on the severity and the frequency of the infraction. 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 will result in permanent ban from the library's computers, from the library, or from both.

Copies of Acceptable Internet Use Policies can usually be found on the libraries' Web sites. A list of these sites can be found at
<http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whoweare/directories/valib/libweb.asp>.