



## LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

**Sandra Gioia Treadway**  
Librarian of Virginia

November 6, 2008

### TRANSMITTAL LETTER

**TO:** The Honorable R. Edward Houck  
Chairman, Senate Education Committee  
  
The Honorable Robert Tata  
Chairman, House Education Committee  
  
The Honorable Kathy J. Byron  
Chairman, House Committee on Science and Technology

**FROM:** Sandra G. Treadway

**SUBJECT:** Biennial Report on Acceptable Internet Use Policies Developed by Local Library Boards

Section 42.1-36.1 of the *Code of Virginia* instructs the Librarian of Virginia to submit a report biennially to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Education, House Committee on Science and Technology, and the Senate Committee on Education and Health on Acceptable Internet Use Policies filed with the Librarian of Virginia. The Library of Virginia has on file Acceptable Internet Use Policies from all 91 public library systems in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Please accept this report as fulfillment of this responsibility. If you have any questions about this report please let me know.

**cc:** The Honorable Thomas R. Morris  
Secretary of Education  
  
Laura Wilborn  
Division of Legislative Automated Systems

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## Introduction

The *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 that summarizes the acceptable use policies filed with the Librarian.

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

- 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 that is harmful to juveniles, and
- iii. establish appropriate measures to be taken against persons who violate the policy. This includes the selection, installation, and activation of a technology protection measure to filter or block child pornography, obscenity, and materials deemed harmful to minors.

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 of the state's public libraries. The list of libraries follows:

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.

In fiscal year 2007, all public libraries received grants from the Commonwealth to help defray the initial cost of purchasing filtering software. In addition to the use of software, policies seek to prevent access by library patrons under the age of 18 to material that is harmful to juveniles. In the majority of policies, 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. 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>.