**Sample Library Policies on Filtering**

**United States:**

In November 2003, all King County Library System (KCLS) library cards will be automatically set to filtered Internet access in order to comply with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA). CIPA requires that libraries receiving federal funding filter all computers with Internet access.

*If you are 17 years or older and would like unfiltered access on your card, please see a staff member and request unfiltered access for “bona fide research and other lawful purposes.”*

A person under the age of 17 years must have filtered access on his/her card.

*From King County Library System:*

<http://www.kcls.org/usingthelibrary/computers_internet/>

It is the Library's policy to provide technology that allows Library users the choice of blocking their access and that of their minor children to adult-oriented, sexually explicit web sites, email and/ or chat with the understanding that no technology is fully effective in blocking intended sites and may inadvertently block unintended sites.

A minor will be allowed to use WCLS-owned internet computers only with a parent or guardian's signature on the Whatcom County Library System's registration form indicating basic filtered or no internet access. The parent or guardian may also complete and sign an internet access form to select from additional levels of filtering or no filtering for their minor child.

The Library does not provide any level of filtering on wireless internet access. Parents and guardians are responsible for minors' use of computers to access the internet wirelessly at WCLS.

*From Whatcom County Library System*

<http://www.wcls.org/internet-use-policy>

**Canada:**

The Library provides filtering software on some Public Access Internet Computers in each branch, to enable adults and/or children to limit their ability to visit sites which may contain pornography, hate literature, or provide information on how to carry out criminal acts. The Library stresses that no filtering software is 100% effective and the Library is not responsible for offensive sites the filters fail to block or legitimate sites blocked by the filter.

The Library also recognizes its special relationship with children, but reminds parents and guardians that it is their responsibility to ensure that children use the Library's Internet stations safely and appropriately.

*From Vancouver Island Regional Library*

<http://www.virl.bc.ca/pages/index_e.aspx?DetailID=344>

In accord with the Statement on Intellectual Freedom, the library does not control, and assumes no responsibility for, information accessed on the Internet. Library users are responsible for the sites they visit and any text or images they print. As is the case with materials in the library collection, any restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. (Amended September 21, 2000.)

The library will not filter Internet workstations in the adult areas of the library.

Internet workstations in children’s departments will have a commercial content filter which will allow parents and children to use workstations with controlled access. This policy is consistent with the book and materials collection policy which stresses children’s collections be appropriate for the age and interests of children. It recognizes community expectations that the children’s department will provide content and services suitable for children. (Amended August 2, 2001.)

*From Burnaby Public Library*

<http://www.bpl.bc.ca/computers-and-wireless#internet-policy>