

**CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT (CIPA)
NEIGHBORHOOD PROTECTION ACT
AND SCARBOROUGH LIBRARY INTERNET ACCESS**

On June 23, 2003 the Supreme Court upheld a federal law that requires public libraries to install blocking software on all library computers providing Internet access to the staff and public as a condition of continuing to receive federal subsidies and grants.

All Internet access at the Scarborough Public Library is provided by the Maine School and Library Network (MSLN) and is funded with "E-rate" federal funds. Therefore, the library is required to comply with the law to use this free Internet service.

Our Compliance Procedures

The law requires that children under the age of 17 be protected from visual depictions that are "obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors" and that the library have a policy in place that addresses a number of issues, including:

- hacking;
- the unauthorized disclosure, use or dissemination of personal information regarding minors;
- the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, etc.; and,
- the technology protection measure (blocking software) that is in place

Consequently, we use software on all computers that identifies and blocks sites by their web address. The software utilizes a compiled database of adult content site addresses. We do not use "keyword" blocking (blocking based on the appearance of words in a site).

Children's Computers and Lookups

By Board policy, blocking software is used on all youth Internet capable computers in order to comply with the requirements of the law as we understand them. Children's computers are blocked to conform to the categories of adult content, including nudity and sex as specified in the law. In addition, excessive violence, chat, web e-mail, social networking, and shopping sites are also blocked by Board policy. To protect workstations from downloaded software, gambling, hacking, computer security, proxy avoidance, and URL translation sites are also blocked. Our policy does not allow children's computers to be unblocked.

Children with Parental Permission

By Board policy, blocked sites are not unblocked on children's computers for children under the age of 17, even with parental permission.

Adult Public Computers and Lookups

Adult computers and lookups also use blocking software to comply with the requirements of CIPA. Sites are blocked that are deemed to have adult content, including nudity and

sex. Additionally, in order to protect workstations from downloaded software, gambling, hacking, computer security, proxy avoidance, and URL translation sites are also blocked.

Requests for Unblocking

The Reference staff, at the request of an adult user with research needs, will unblock a site for viewing on a page-by-page basis as long as the site is not, in our judgment, an illegal site or a threat to our network security. Children must not be present in the area. Entire Internet sessions will not be unblocked. Gambling, hacking, computer security, proxy avoidance, instant messaging and URL translation sites will not be unblocked. The blocking bypass is available only to users 17 and older and only at the public access stations in the adult area.

Staff Computers

In accordance with the Court decision, blocking software is activated to comply with the requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act to block sites of adult content, nudity and sex on **all** library computers, including staff workstations. To protect workstations from downloaded software, gambling, hacking, computer security, proxy avoidance, instant messaging and URL translation sites are also blocked. With the exception of the Reference desk computer, blocked sites will not be unblocked for staff. No password is available.

Network Administrator Has Wide Latitude

The Board of Trustees has given the network administrator wide latitude to block access to websites determined to be a threat to the library's internal network and confidential data and to our users' confidential information.

Who To Contact:

An adult needs to bypass page blocking on Public computers 1-7:

Request unblocking of the page by a Reference librarian

A staff member or patron feels a site is inappropriately blocked:

Print the blocking warning at no charge and give it to a staff member to be evaluated.

Technical, legal, or policy questions about blocking software should be addressed to:

Network Administrator

Susan Winch

slw@scarborough.lib.me.us

Library Director

Nancy Crowell

nec@scarborough.lib.me.us

10/13/2006