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PHOEBE APPERSON HEARST LIBRARY
LEAD, SOUTH DAKOTA



BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMPUTER FILTERING POLICY

PURPOSE

The Hearst Library seeks to provide an atmosphere conducive to the best use of its resources. To this end, an effort is made to balance the rights of users to access constitutionally protected information and uphold the principles of intellectual freedom while also ensuring the rights of users and staff to work in a public setting free from offensive information or images and thereby making the library a safe and welcoming place for children and patrons of all ages and sensibilities.

SOURCE

Hearst Library Board of Trustees and Hearst Library Director

POLICY

In providing public access to the internet, the Hearst Library utilizes commercial filtering software to block, to the extent practical, access to inappropriate matter and visual images that are defined by law as “harmful to minors” or “obscene”.

PROCEDURE

- All patron computer terminals in the library are located in public areas that are shared with other library users and staff. Individuals are expected to show consideration and respect to ensure that their internet use does not have a negative impact on fellow patrons.
- Computers may not be used to access materials that are illegal, sexually explicit or obscene
- As a protective measure, filtering software is installed on all library public access computers
- All filtering categories are to be determined at the discretion of the Library Board of Trustees
- Users are reminded that filtering is not 100 percent accurate and the ability of the library to restrict access and exposure to images and information is subject to the limitations of that filtering software and physical layout of library facilities
- It is ultimately the responsibility of patrons and/or parents / guardians to monitor and guide their own and their children’s use of all library resources, including the internet
- If patrons fail to comply with this computer use restriction, library staff members are authorized to take prompt and appropriate action. Patrons may be prohibited from future computer use, barred from the library and/or referred to law enforcement authorities

Approved by:

Mary Linn 4-17-23

Hearst Library Board of Trustees President Date

Sarah Sheep

Hearst Library Director