



Policies and Procedures
Policy 0013

Table with 2 columns and 2 rows. Row 1: Date of Origin: July 9, 1998 – originally named “Public Access to Electronic Resources & the World Wide Web” | Approved By: Library Director & Library Board. Row 2: Date(s) of Revision: 3.18.04, 7.24.08, 3.18.21 | Date(s) of Review:

The Board of Trustees of the Stevens County Rural Library District (SCRLD) recognizes that within the library district are groups and individuals with diverse interests, backgrounds and needs. Understanding this, the Board further recognizes and emphasizes that the library was established to serve all of the people within the district.

It is the policy of the SCRLD to make electronic and internet resources, together with its collection of library materials, available to its patrons as a means of providing information in support of its mission. Connection with electronic information, services and networks provides access to and transformation of information rather than selecting and acquiring materials in the traditional sense. Providing access is not the same as selection.

Library staff can provide training on electronic resource usage for patrons, as they do for other resources. Staff will also make available information to help parents and guardians in their efforts to exercise their rights and responsibilities regarding their own children’s use of electronic resources. As with other library materials, the library affirms the right and responsibility of parents or guardians to guide, determine, and monitor their children’s use of the Internet.

Congress passed the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) in December 2000, and in June 2003, the U.S. Supreme Court declared it constitutional. To comply with CIPA, the District utilizes filtering devices. Staff continue to refine this filtering as technology changes and connectivity options change in the various communities of Stevens County. Because of the Internet’s unstructured, unregulated and international nature, there is no assurance that any filtering software will block access to all materials that fall within the selected blocked categories. It is also possible that the filter will block information that it should not. The use of all library resources, including electronic resources, is voluntary and the district believes that the library user is the best judge of what is appropriate for themselves and the minors for whom they are responsible.

By default, patron access to the internet on District networked, public computers will be filtered. If an adult patron (17 years of age or older) wishes to temporarily opt out of filtering, they may request this of a SCRLD staff member. There is no provision in CIPA for disabling the filter for minors (age 16 and under).

District electronic devices available for circulation to the public are not filtered and may only be checked out to a patron aged 18 or older, to comply with the age of majority in Washington State. Wireless internet access provided by the District is not filtered.

Access to, use of, or dissemination of constitutionally unprotected (illegal) materials is prohibited. Use of SCRLD computers for other unlawful purposes is also prohibited. Compliance with this policy is the responsibility of the user, or in the case of minors, it is a joint responsibility of the user and the parent or guardian.

The District works hard to maintain secure connections; however, all users should exercise caution when transmitting personal information on District and/or personal devices.

The Rules of Conduct also apply to the use of electronic equipment and resources. Failure to follow the Rules of Conduct may be cause for a temporary or permanent prohibition from use of library equipment or facilities. In cases of threatening behavior or illegal activities, law enforcement will be notified.

The District’s Director is responsible for establishing procedures to carry out this policy.