

10-23-2014

Niles library considers installing internet filters on adult computers

Igor Studenkov
Niles Herald-Spectator

Follow this and additional works at: https://dc.uwm.edu/orland_park_library_challenge



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Studenkov, Igor, "Niles library considers installing internet filters on adult computers" (2014). *Orland Park Public Library (Illinois), 2013*. 19.
https://dc.uwm.edu/orland_park_library_challenge/19

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by UWM Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Orland Park Public Library (Illinois), 2013 by an authorized administrator of UWM Digital Commons. For more information, please contact open-access@uwm.edu.

[SUBSCRIBE](#) [CLASSIFIEDS](#) [AUTOS](#) [SPLASHHOME](#) [HOMESMIX](#) [HOMES](#) [JOBS](#) [PHOTO STORE](#) [TV WEEKLY](#) [READER SERVICES](#) [CONTACT US](#)

A CHICAGO SUN-TIMES publication

NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR
My Home. My Local News Since 1896.

News

- [Subscribe ▶](#)
- [Submit News ▶](#)
- [Subscribe to Newsletter ▶](#)

NEWS

CRIME

SPORTS

THINGS TO DO

OBITUARIES

LIFESTYLES

DIRECTORY

CALENDAR



NEWS

Share: [f](#) [t](#) [g+](#)

Niles library considers installing internet filters on adult computers

Igor Studenkov

For Sun-Times Media
Oct. 23 11:24 a.m.

RECENT ARTICLES

Notre Dame football team's playoff hopes rest on run defense against Carmel

Oct. 23 6:03 p.m.

Niles North football team faces must-win game against Deerfield

Oct. 23 5:05 p.m.

State of Illinois sets up Ebola task force

Oct. 23 1:01 p.m.

Letter to the editor: Can't decide who to vote for?

Oct. 23 11:53 a.m.

The Big Questions: Author Jen Lancaster on bucket lists, conservatism and (not) writing about sex

Oct. 23 10:07 a.m.

Niles North's Michelle Bacalla enjoys being part of girls tennis team

Oct. 23 10:03 a.m.

The Niles Public Library Board is considering adding internet content filters on computers used by teenagers and adults.

The library currently has filters on computers in the KidSpace area, but computers in teen and adult areas aren't filtered. However, a recent controversy over Orland Park Public Library patrons using computers to view pornography caused the Niles library to reconsider their policy.

After discussing the issue during the Oct 15 meeting, the board asked the staff to prepare a report about potential internet filters. It is expected to discuss the report during the Nov 19 meeting.

The Orland Park library controversy started in the fall of 2013. Orlando Park resident Megan Fox used library computers to homeschool her children. When she saw a male patron use a library computer to watch pornography, she complained to the library officials.

Library officials argued that it was a matter of First Amendment rights. As the materials weren't illegal or obscene, the library policy allowed patrons to use adult-only computers to look up anything, even pornography.

Since then, Fox and her friend, Kevin DuJan, waged a campaign to pressure the library change its policy. According to a Chicago Tribune report, as of Sept. 2, the library reported that the controversy cost it \$125,000 in legal fees.

Niles Public Library has public computers in three areas – the KidSpace area, which is meant for children up to ninth grade, the Teen Underground, which is meant for teenagers from grades 9-12, and the computer area on the lower level, which is used by teenagers and adults.

In her report to the board, Niles Public Library Interim Director Susan Lempke explained that only KidSpace computers have filter programs that block access to sites that feature nudity. Each computer has its own filter, Lempke said.

If a child wants to research medical issues, some perfectly child-appropriate results could be blocked, she said. If that happens, the current set-up allows librarians to turn a filter off without affecting other computers, Lempke said.

Lempke explained that the library does have a policy against using adult computers to watch pornography.

"If anyone watches porn, we have a way to remotely cut them off, and we can talk to them individually," she explained.

If a patron continues to get caught watching porn again, their computer access privileges would be suspended, Lempke said.

The library could implement a firewall-style filter, which would block porn on all computers, even patron laptops and e-readers patrons that use the building's public wifi network, she said.

However, Lempke argued that it might be going too far, since those kinds of filters tend to be far more restrictive than filters used in KidSpace – and that it's much harder to unblock websites that get filtered by mistake.

Board President Morgan Dubiel agreed

"The firewall seems a bit extreme," he said.

Trustee Danette spoke in favor of adding filters to adult computers similar to the ones already used in KidSpace. She asked Lempke how well the current policy against porn is enforced.

"It gets dealt with immediately," Lempke answered. "It isn't tolerated."

Library attorney Dennis Walsh advised the board to tread carefully

"Internet filtering of library computers for adults is complicated," he said. "I suggest we work with the staff to figure it out."

Dubiel surveyed the rest of the board to get their opinions.

Trustee Lynda Ryan leaned against filtering, especially if it involved a firewall. Trustees Chris Ball and Karen Dimond said that they were interesting in seeing the staff report on the library options. After a brief discussion, the board decided to ask the staff to do just that.

The board is expected to get the report during the next meeting, which will take place on Nov 19.

We want your Halloween photos!

Do you have the scariest house on the block? Or the cutest kid in costume? Share your Halloween photos with us! [Click here](#) to submit them.

HearUSA **sonus** hearing care professionals

America's Most Trusted Name in Hearing Care.

US Cellular **WEB ONLY**

For a limited time **\$100 off** Samsung GALAXY S5

USE CODE **GS5100**

Shop Now Pricing Details

Tags: Niles library

0 Comments

Comment here...

Name

Email

Comment

 **Price Protection** We refund the difference, when the original store doesn't. Up to \$500 on eligible items within 90 days of purchase. **DISCOVER**  [Get Details](#)

Small Business **U.S. Cellular**

\$0 down

On tablets for your small business.

[Pricing Details](#)



Samsung **GALAXY Tab 4**

Buy Now

Niles Herald-Spectator

About

Subscribe

Reader Services

Licensing

Reprints

AFFILIATES

Chicago Sun-Times

Pioneer Local

High School Cube

News

High School Sports

Broadcast

WeekAway

Rankommend

Bouquet Catcher

Chicago ViewsMix

Geneva Reporter

St. Charles Reporter

Batavia Reporter

Tri-Cities Reporter

COMPANY

Terms of Use

Privacy Policy

Send Feedback

Contact Us

About Us

ADVERTISING

About Our Ads

Advertise with Us

Submission

Guidelines

Cont



WRAPREPORTS

© Copyright 2014 Sun-Times Media, LLC