

Accepted 10/20/2010

Library District Board Policy

Acceptable Use of the Library Policy Date approved: 10/20/2010

Approved by: Delta County Libraries Board of Trustees

Date amended/modified:

Acceptable Use of the Library Policy

The Board of Trustees of the Delta County Public Library District, aka Delta County Libraries and referred to as the Library District, adopts and makes public the following Acceptable Use of the Library policy:

The Delta County Libraries Board of Trustees encourages all members of the community to use the library. In order to ensure that all library users are able to utilize the library without unnecessary distractions, each library patron must behave in a manner that respects the rights of all users of the library.

The Library District strives to balance the rights of users to access different information resources with the rights of patrons to use the library and its resources free from harassing sounds and visuals. We ask all our library users to remain sensitive to the fact that they are working in a public environment shared by people of all ages, with a variety of information interests and needs.

An atmosphere that is conducive to learning will benefit all individuals who use the library. Therefore, the Board of Trustees hereby adopts the following Acceptable Use of the Library Policy:

Disruptive behavior will not be allowed. Examples of disruptive behavior include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Loud or boisterous behavior, unsafe behavior, and other disorderly conduct.
2. Vulgar, abusive, or threatening language.
3. Misuse of library furnishings or equipment.
4. Excessive socializing without regard for the disturbance caused to other library users.
5. Running, throwing, fighting or any other behavior which disrupts other library patrons.
6. Viewing or downloading visual material that by local community standards would be considered obscene.

The following actions are not permitted in the library:

1. Solicitation
2. Use of tobacco
3. Staring at, leering at, or following patrons
4. Eating (Except in the program room, outside spaces, and in designated areas)

Drinks in covered containers may be allowed in the library.

5. Possession or consumption of alcohol unless during a library approved event
6. Use of library restroom facilities for laundry or bathing

Patrons who cause repeated disruptions will be asked to leave the library premises. Law enforcement will be contacted if the disruptive patron refuses to leave or reenters the building.

Children who are unable to leave the library without an adult should not be in the library alone. An adult must be with a child preschool age and under at all times. The Library staff reserves the right to call a parent/guardian if a child 7 years or younger is alone at the library. If a parent or guardian cannot be reached the police may be called.

Unattended children between ages 7 and 18 are free to utilize the library as long as needed, provided their behavior is not disruptive to other patrons or staff members. Parents are responsible for their children's behavior on library premises. It is not the library's responsibility to provide child care. If disruptive behavior continues, library staff are given the options of requesting the child leave, calling the parents, or calling Law enforcement officers to escort the child home.

Staff are authorized to call law enforcement when the library closes if unattended children have not been picked up. Under no circumstances will staff provide transportation for children left at the library.

Patrons who repeatedly violate this behavior policy will be issued a suspension letter, suspending all or some library privileges for a defined period of time. The Library Director may approve the suspension letter after the first violation of this behavior policy if it is determined that such violation is severe. Suspended patrons must meet with the District Director and agree to a behavior contract before privileges are restored. An "Incident Report Form" should be completed for any behavioral incident and also when a suspension letter is issued.

Copies of incident forms will be retained at the branch manager's office and the District office.