

Study: Internet Filters Hamper Education

Internet filtering in schools and libraries is excessive and limits student learning, hurting low-income kids the most, according to a new report from the American Library Association (ALA). “Fencing out Knowledge: Impacts of the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) 10 Years Later” concluded that institutions that have installed filtering software on their Internet-accessible computers in order to receive certain federal funds routinely block more content than required, depriving students of access to information and collaborative tools. Poor students who may not otherwise have unfiltered Internet access are the most affected.

“Over-blocking in schools hampers students from developing their online presence and fully understanding the extent and permanence of their digital footprint,” reads the report, which was released by ALA’s Office for Informational Technology Policy (OITP) and Office of Intellectual Freedom (OIF) and written by OITP consultant Kristin R. Batch.

Factors contributing to the over-implementation of CIPA included

misinterpretation of the law; different perceptions of filtering; and various limitations of filtering software.

CIPA was passed in 2000 in order to “block adults and minors from accessing online images deemed ‘obscene,’ ‘child pornography,’ or ‘harmful to minors’ for minors less than 17 years old,” the report stated. “Yet the



use of the Internet is vastly different today than when the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of this law in 2003.”

The study looks at the challenges that filtering poses for both schools and public libraries. Addressing the lack of transparency in filtering software, the report identifies several cases of overreaching filtering. Through-

out Rhode Island schools, for instance, students are prevented from accessing 89 categories of content, including websites such as those of the American Civil Liberties Union, People for Ethical Treatment of Animals, Planned Parenthood, and the National Organization for Marriage.

“While the librarian side of me is pushing for open access and user privacy, the school administrator in me is worried,” Christopher Harris, chair of the OITP Advisory Committee and a 2008 *Library Journal* Mover & Shaker, wrote in an accompanying blog post. “As an administrator, I am charged by New York State law to act in loco parentis—in the place of a parent—protecting students from harm.” Public libraries do not have such mandates for their child patrons.

Regarding filtering in public libraries, “Fencing Out Knowledge” looks at the issue as it relates to the library mission and in the context of a growing demand for public library services and reliance on the Internet for information. “Given increased demand and the mission to provide free and open access to information for all, libraries find that Internet filtering poses fundamental

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challenges to intellectual freedom,” the report states. “Filtering also conflicts directly with core professional values of librarians as articulated in ALA’s Library Bill of Rights. As Internet filters, by design, block access to

content, not only are they incompatible with library values, but for many librarians they also constitute censorship.” The report concludes with several suggested plans of action to address the filtering issue. Batch noted that librarians are in a position to improve school Internet acceptable use policies and raise colleagues’ awareness of the consequences of overfiltering. ALA will work with educational groups and create a toolkit for revamping Internet policies.

Interview

Marybeth Zeman

A transitional counselor for incarcerated youth and former high school ESL teacher, Marybeth Zeman used a book cart stacked with donations as a library in juvenile corrections center libraries and witnessed the power of books to build hope and trust while working in the jail classroom. She shared her thoughts on the profession in her new book, *Tales of a Jailhouse Librarian*.



Talk about your book cart library and how it helps your counseling work.

My book cart was an opportunity for connection and engagement. An open book can be a bridge back into the community.

What effect does solitary confinement have on teens in jail?

Anyone is impacted by being locked in a cell for 19 hours. What makes these situations worse is the restriction on reading material.

What can libraries do to help young people in jail?

Public libraries can help these kids by just listening, responding, and providing information on the resources that the public library has to offer. Be the welcome mat.

McGraw-Hill, Follett, Team for K–12 Ebooks

On June 24, McGraw-Hill Professional, a leading global publisher of education and professional content, announced a partnership with Follett to further expand availability of its ebook titles to K-12 school library customers globally. Currently, more than 30 million students and educators in 42,000 schools worldwide use eBooks provided by Follett.

McGraw-Hill Professional’s catalog is one of the premier ebook collections in the world for education, business, consumer, technical, and medical titles available on the market today. McGraw-Hill Professional is offering more than 4,500 new and backlist ebooks, available to lend on multiple devices.

Tom Schenck, president of Follett School Solutions, says, “Our customers are especially excited about the availability of McGraw-Hill Professional’s highly respected test preparation titles.”

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Library Hotline Is Moving Downtown

Please note that as of July 21, the staff of *Library Hotline* will be settling into new offices in New York City’s Financial District.

Our email addresses and phone numbers and fax numbers will remain the same. However, please plan to send materials for review and other mail to our new address: 123 William Street, Suite 802, New York, NY 10038.

These titles include McGraw-Hill Education's comprehensive collection of student test prep and study aids: "5 Steps to a 5 AP" test prep series, the "Demystified" series, "Practice Makes Perfect" foreign language series, "Schaum's Outline" study guides, McGraw-Hill Education Guide to SAT, McGraw-Hill Education TASC, The Official Guide to TOEFL Test, and more.

Follett customers are able to seamlessly search and access all print and digital content within the convenience of Destiny Library Manager, the leading school library management solution. Destiny features Follett's Universal Search, an innovative tool that gives students the ability to access content they need from one system. Follett customers without the Destiny platform use Follett Shelf, the company's virtual bookshelf.

CPL, NYPL Lending Wi-Fi Hot Spots to Patrons

"In New York City, about 27 percent of households don't have computers or broadband at home," Tony Marx, president and CEO of the New York Public Library (NYPL), told *Hotline*. In households with incomes of \$35,000 or less, the figure is closer to 50 percent. "That means that there are neighborhoods in New York—the poorer neighborhoods in New York—where it's prevalent that people do not have computers or broadband at home."

Public computers and Wi-Fi access at NYPL branches help address this component of the digital divide to some extent, but demand is significant.

NYPL recently launched a small Wi-Fi hot spot lending pilot program that involves 100 New York families served by four branches. A \$500,000 grant from the Knight Foundation will enable NYPL to expand this pilot

program to thousands more households beginning this fall.

To check out a device, a patron must be enrolled in an online education program, such as NYPL's Li-

brary's Out of School Time (OST), English for Speakers of Other Languages, and Technology Training programs. This requirement serves several purposes, Marx said.

Reading Rainbow Raises Millions on Kickstarter

In May 2014, LeVar Burton (pictured), former host of *Reading Rainbow*, the beloved PBS children's television series that aired from 1983 until 2009, launched a Kickstarter campaign to raise funds to expand the Reading Rainbow app for tablets he had created in 2012 after buying the rights to the show and developing the business RRLKidz. Within 11 hours of their Kickstarter debut, the campaign raised \$1 million.



The campaign began as a way to hone the Reading Rainbow app and help it branch out to new formats like game consoles and Internet-connected TVs. In addition to initiating a separate subscription-based classroom version, Burton also plans to use the money raised to provide the app "to thousands of disadvantaged classrooms for free."

"So many people grew up with the show that we have a large and devoted following," said Burton's business partner and RRLKidz CEO Mark Wolfe. As of June 11, approximately 80,000 backers had pledged \$3,665,532, exceeding the original million dollar goal. The campaign's target was then revised to \$5 million.

Currently available via the Apple or Amazon app stores, the Reading Rainbow app provides books and literature-inspired video field trips for children ages three to nine. While the app does offer up to five books for free, it is a paid subscription service; the fee is \$9.99 per month (or \$29.99 for six months) for unlimited access for up to five users.

The success of this campaign has not been without backlash. In a May 28 *Washington Post* article, readers were asked to reconsider donating to the project. The article criticizes Burton for monetizing *Reading Rainbow* and suggests he is capitalizing on nostalgia and that a better way to get books to needy kids is by giving to nonprofits such as Children's Literacy Initiative or First Book.

In response to the criticism, Wolfe said, "Authors have to get paid for their books. None of us are ashamed or embarrassed by the fact that we have to generate revenue as a company that has to be funded initially by investors in order to do this. The point of the revenue is to create more products and create more ways to reach people."

Chiming in defense of Burton's Kickstarter campaign, librarian and blogger Karen Jensen of Teen Librarian Toolbox wrote, "The beauty of it all is that a Kickstarter is completely voluntary. If it's not your cause, that's cool. Don't donate. Support the things that you are personally passionate about and let others do the same." A *Library Journal* 2014 Mover & Shaker, Jensen continued, "This is actually a really good system, because it means that we end up with a lot of different things in this world, instead of all of one kind of thing."

The Reading Rainbow team will launch its pilot classroom app for the 2014–15 school year.

“That allows us to make sure that people can use this access for educational work or homework that they need to do, and it means that people who are getting the loan have ongoing interactions with us,” he explained.

In order to ensure that the program covers the entire city, NYPL is spearheading the project on behalf of the city’s other two major library systems, the Queens Library and Brooklyn Public Library (BPL).

“We don’t yet know details about how many locations or number of units that will be for loan, but I assure you, it is a badly needed service,” Joanne King, director of communications for the Queens Library, told *Hotline*.

In Chicago, Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced that the Chicago Public Library (CPL) had received its \$400,000 Knight News Challenge grant during the recent 2014 NEXT

Library Conference. In 2013, Chicago’s public schools partnered with Code.org to add computer science to its K–12 core curriculum, and the mayor’s office expanded the budget for CPL’s YOUmedia digital skill development programs by \$500,000.

“I thank the Knight Foundation for their support, because with this funding the Chicago Public Library will now be able to provide free, easy-to-take home, high-speed Internet access that will serve as a game-changer for children and adults across Chicago but especially in communities that have traditionally been underserved,” Emanuel said.

CPL will launch its program at six branches in neighborhoods where residential broadband access is especially low. Patrons will be allowed to check out Wi-Fi hot spots for up to three weeks, and the library plans to experiment with a laptop lending

program for patrons who also don’t have home computer access.

“The digital divide is solvable now, and the solution requires collective will and bold action,” CPL commissioner Brian Bannon said in an announcement. “We are committed to increasing the number of digitally connected children and adults in Chicago and are so grateful to the Knight Foundation for supporting our vision through the Internet To Go program.”

For links to each library’s Knight News Challenge proposal, as well as the winning proposal from the Digital Public Library of America, which will use its \$300,000 to develop a framework for simplified digital rights management, see additional coverage on *Library Journal’s* infoDOCKET.com (ow.ly/yFEwt).

Capira Integrates StackMap into Mobile App

On June 27, library software and mobile app developer Capira Technologies announced an integration with StackMap, a bookshelf visualization platform that helps guide patrons directly to the location of books and other materials in the library. Using the app, patrons will be able to search for and discover items in a library’s catalog and with one click view a detailed map of their library’s floor plan that highlights the shelf location of their selected item. The integration is currently being tested by Hampton Library in Bridgehampton, NY, and is expected to be widely available as a Capira service option for Apple iOS devices by July 1 and for Androids by July 30.

Hampton Library director Kelly Harris told *Hotline* that she views the mapping function as a way to help patrons who prefer self-service and would rather not ask for assistance.

“I’m always looking for ways to

News in Brief

Backstage Library Works completed **Resource Description and Access (RDA)** enrichment for 380,000 records within the **MOBIUS Archway** library catalog. There are 14 million records throughout ten MOBIUS systems scheduled for RDA updates.

Aquafadas Digital Publishing System has partnered with the **National Library of Colombia**, Cundinamarca, Bogotá, to digitize the latter’s historic resources. More than 30,000 titles were digitized.

The **Library of Congress** acquired the archive of the **HistoryMakers**, which documents African American life. The collection includes analog tapes, DVDs, born-digital files, paper documents, and digital photographs.

The **State Library of Ohio**, Columbus, received a **2014 Ohio AmeriCorps Formula**

grant from ServeOhio. The money will fund its **Guiding Ohio Online** program to support rural public libraries.

Professional service firm **Dewberry** won two **Library Interior Design Awards** from the **American Library Association/International Interior Design Association**: its design for the **Midland Centennial Library, TX**, won for a public library over 30,000 square feet, and its design of the **Teen Quad at Schaumburg Township Main Library, IL**, received an honorable mention for Single Space Design.

Three North Carolina universities switched to **Innovative Interfaces’ Sierra Services Platform**: the **University of North Carolina, Pembroke**; **University of North Carolina, Wilmington**; and **University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Winston-Salem**.

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reach out to people who want to use the library, who would use the library, but want to do it themselves,” Harris explained. “For a student, or a busy younger mom, or a college-age kid, yes, they want to use the library and grab what they need, but they don’t necessarily want to ask, ‘Where is this book?’ There’s a feeling that ‘I should be able to do this myself.’”

People like busy moms, she said, “just want to come in, grab their item, check themselves out, and leave. You see it in supermarkets. They don’t want to stand in line.”

The self-service capability enabled by StackMap also ensures privacy, Harris added. Even patrons who are otherwise comfortable with library staff may not want to ask for help finding materials on sensitive subjects, such as coping with depression, or helping a loved one who has a serious illness or a drug use problem, for example.

“That might not be a resource that they want to ask a librarian about or take up to the circulation desk to check out, especially in a small library,” she explained.

StackMap is integrated into the catalogs of several universities and large public libraries, including Florida’s Orange County Public Library system, enabling patrons to access the maps via the library’s OPAC system. Lex Cooke, CEO and cofounder of StackMap, noted in an announcement that integrating with Capira will further simplify the mapping experience for users by offering one-click access to the maps on a handheld device.

“We are particularly excited to be working with Capira on mobile because it will enable StackMap to provide that much more value to a library patron, by giving that patron the ability to carry the digital map with them while they attempt to navigate the physical space of the library,” Cooke said.

Catharine Cook retired as Director of the Chickasha Public Library, OK. She has served in the field for 42 years.

Robin L. Dale was named Associate Deputy Director for State Programs for the Institute of Museum and Library Services. She was previously Senior Director for Digital Services at LYRASIS.

Emily Moore, Head of Children’s Services at the Voorhees branch of the Camden County Library System, NJ, was named a “Rising Star” by the New Jersey Library Association. She was honored during the association’s annual conference.

Cheryl Morales was named Executive Director at Pinellas Public Library Cooperative,

FL. She was previously Territorial Librarian at Feleti Barstow Public Library, American Samoa Library, Pago Pago.

Bob Oeste, Senior Programmer/Analyst at Johns Hopkins University Press, received the 2014 Constituency Award from the Association of American University Presses (AAUP). He was honored at the AAUP annual conference.

Charles Wright was appointed as the 20th Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry for 2014–15 by the Library of Congress. He will begin his term in the fall.

Joan Weber retired as Director of Library and Media Services at the Raymond Library, Yakima Valley Community College, WA. She has been in the position for 22 years.

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Libraries Bring STEM to Summer Reading

School’s out for summer, but the library is still open, and there are programs around the country looking to entice and educate kids—and their parents—while fostering a love of reading and preventing the summer slide. The programs use themes, prizes, and activities as incentives to motivate children to read over the break.

For libraries that participate in the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP), a consortium that offers summer reading materials to libraries at low cost, the theme is science. Children will participate through the “Fizz Boom Read!” program, while the teen slogan is “Spark a Reaction.”

“We work three years out, so we planned this years ago,” said Karen Yother, president of CSLP. “The science theme engages children because they’re naturally interested in the experiments and activities even if they

don’t know that it’s physics or chemistry that makes it work.”

In the 27 years since its creation, CSLP has expanded to include libraries in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and American territories such as the Cayman Islands. Yet while the libraries agree to use a consistent theme and have the option of using CSLP-created posters and materials, there’s plenty of room for individualization. Yother is also the youth services coordinator at the Community Library Network in Idaho, and she knows the importance of being able to adapt nationally developed programs for local libraries.

“People can customize their program to fit their needs,” Yother said. “My smallest library is a 700 square foot space in a retirement community, and the largest one is 2,500 square feet and is in the middle of town. There are different activities that’ll work for the different spaces. If [librarians] find that teen art works best for their adults, they can use it in the way that works best for their community.”

At the Tuscaloosa Public Library, Vince Bellofatto is the director of communications and public relations, and one of his responsibilities is to coordinate the summer reading program with the children's and adult services departments. For this summer's program, June 2–August 1, Bellofatto helped plan programs in which children will make soda volcanoes that fizz to life owing to a combination of Mentos and Diet Coke (“It teaches them chemistry, and it’s fun

and messy”) and that feature local or regional performers, such as a juggler who goes by the stage name Tom Foolery. Building airplanes is another fun activity, and one that teaches kids about aerodynamics. Bellofatto also emphasized that the summer program is for library patrons of any age.

“It’s like *The LEGO Movie*. The kids enjoy it, but there are some inside jokes for adults, too,” he said. “That’s the philosophy that we try to work with.”

With an 800-page manual, CSLP has no shortage of program suggestions, ranging from the simple (crosswords) to the complex (puppet plays). There is also a sample letter for libraries that need to ask for donations.

STEM is also coming to the summer reading program at Multnomah Public Library (MPL), Portland, OR.

This year, summer reading in Oregon includes a visit from two female entomologists who call themselves the Bug Chicks. They’ll bring insects and spiders into branches and let the children view them up close. Katie O’Dell, youth services manager at MPL, also mentioned an all-you-can-make art bar and a beatnik lab with drum machines and synthesizers.

Meanwhile, Houston’s summer reading program centers on the theme “Your Space To Dream.” Sandra Fernandez, who works in the public relations department Houston Public Library, explained that there are multiple goals for the program.

“Our goal was for the program to be strongly focused in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM),” Fernandez told *Hotline*. “We wanted to ensure that it was fundamentally a reading program [that] also included arts programs. We developed STREAM (science technology reading engineering arts math) to include reading and arts [as part of] ‘Your Space To Dream.’”

Those activities range in complexity from a black-light puppet show to a simple machines workshop. Perhaps due to such a wide variety of programming, the summer reading program has seen a large increase in participants.

“We currently have more than 13,000 kids and teens enrolled, compared with approximately 6,000 at this time last year,” Fernandez says. “Kids are thrilled that they have the opportunity to earn badges for reading and attending programs this year.”

Branching Out

The newest facility of the Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs, opened on June 21, appropriately named **Library 21C**. The experience library replaces the Briargate branch and was intended to combine technology, creativity, convenience, and community, per the *Gazette*. The 112,000 square foot two-story structure, designed by Humphries Poli Architects, incorporates on the top floor administrative offices, a business center, a 400-seat auditorium, a Maker space, and a black box studio, according to *Colorado Springs Style*. A Mondopad presentation board, Lynda tutorials, a laser scanner, a 3-D printer, and a ShopBot are among its many 21st-century amenities. The collections will be on the main level along with the children’s area, a dedicated teen zone, a cafeteria, and reading spaces. Patrons can take advantage of a terraced open area for reading, relaxing, or performances. The \$10.7 million project was funded through a capital campaign in addition to a challenge grant from the El Pomar Foundation.

Funds made available by the **Westchester Library System**, NY, will move forward 15 library projects, including a new HVAC system at the **Ardasley Public Library**, space enhancements at **Briarcliff Manor Public Library**, a rehabbed children’s area at the

Harrison Public Library Main Library, major mechanical upgrades at the **Mount Pleasant Public Library**, and the inclusion of a 1,700 square foot technology training center at the **Yonkers Public Library**.

The **Greenwood Public Library**, DE, welcomed its new 10,400 square foot home on June 24, replacing a trailer-based facility established in 1988. The construction effort took 18 months to complete, with the building now three times the size of its predecessor and featuring many more computers, a dedicated children’s area, and a community meeting room. The project cost \$3.1 million, according to Delaware Online, with financial support from the state and Sussex County governments, which each contributed \$1.5 million, and \$150,000 from the Friends of Greenwood Public Library.

Teens reign supreme at the **Airdrie Public Library** (APL), Alberta, Canada, with the recent completion of the Den, a space exclusively for young adult users. The former computer room includes more computers, the YA holdings, and comfortable seating, per *Airdrie City View*. A gaming computer is expected to be added down the road. According to *CityView*, funding was provided by the Airdrie Lions and Lioness clubs and the Advocates, APL’s Friends of the Library Group.

Send information on groundbreakings and ongoing and completed building projects to blfox@mediasourceinc.com