

**League of Women Voters of  
Plano/Collin County**

A Study of Internet Filtering at Public Libraries in Collin County  
as of January 2000

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League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund

## **Acknowledgements**

**The League of Women Voters of Plano/Collin County is a non-partisan organization that promotes informed citizen participation in government and that educates and advocates on policy in the public interest.**

The League of Women Voters of Plano/Collin County (LWV Plano/Collin County) gratefully acknowledges the cooperation of the directors and employees of county library systems who supplied information for this study. Surveys were sent to the eight library systems. Data received were compiled and a draft sent to each system for review and correction as necessary.

We encourage citizens to use this study to become more informed on the issues related to public access to the Internet using public library computers. The media articles listed and library policies are on file and available upon request to members of the LWV Plano/Collin County. The synopses of the articles, terms selected for the glossary, and resources suggested for further study are the results of efforts of member volunteers and do not represent the position of the LWV Plano/Collin County or any listed resource.

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## **Addresses of the eight (8) public library systems in Collin County:**

### **ALLEN**

Allen Public Library, Barbara Buehler, Director  
Two Allen Civic Plaza, Allen, TX 75013-2559  
(972) 727-190 [www.ci.allen.tx.us/Services/Library/Library.htm](http://www.ci.allen.tx.us/Services/Library/Library.htm)

### **CELINA**

Celina Community Library, Rhonda Detro, Director  
P.O. Box 188, Celina, TX 75009-0188  
(972) 382-3750

### **FARMERSVILLE**

Charles J. Rike Memorial Library, Pansy Hundley, Director  
203 Orange Street  
P.O. Box 352, Farmersville, TX 75442-0352  
(972) 782-6681

### **FRISCO**

Frisco Public Library, Judy McCoy, Director  
8750 McKinney Road, Suite 200, Frisco, TX 75034-3000  
(972) 335-5510 [www.friscolibrary.org](http://www.friscolibrary.org)

### **McKINNEY**

McKinney Memorial Public Library, Susan Compton, Director  
220 N. Kentucky Street, McKinney, TX 75069-3807  
(972) 547-7302 or (972) 562-6080 x7302 Metro

### **MELISSA**

Melissa Public Library, Jan Clark, Director  
1713 Cooper  
P.O. Box 325, Melissa, TX 75454-0325  
(972) 837-4540 [www.melissa.lib.tx.us](http://www.melissa.lib.tx.us)

### **PLANO**

Plano Public Library System/W.O. Haggard, Jr. Library, Joyce Baumbach, Director  
2501 Coit Road, Plano, TX 75075-3892  
(972) 964-4208 [www.planolibrary.org](http://www.planolibrary.org)

### **WYLIE**

Rita & Truett Smith Public Library, Mignon Morse, Director  
800 Thomas Street, Wylie, TX 75098-4301  
(972) 442-7566 [www.ci.wylie.tx.us/library](http://www.ci.wylie.tx.us/library)

Membership in the League of Women Voters of Plano/Collin County means:

- **We study** issues we have identified as important.
- **We publish** VOTERS GUIDES, voter information, and other educational materials.
- **We sponsor** candidate debates and public forums about vital issues.
- **We inform** ourselves, our legislators, and the general public about the results of our research.
- **We cooperate** with other organizations that are working toward our action goals.

*The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 to promote political responsibility through informed and active citizen participation in government. We are strictly non-partisan (we do not support or oppose candidates or political parties). Any United States citizen of voting age can be a member. Associate and student memberships are also available.*

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## **Internet Filtering at Public Libraries in Collin County A Study Conducted by the LWV Plano/Collin County**

**BACKGROUND:** Members of the League of Women Voters of Plano/Collin County voted to initiate a study of Internet access at the Collin County public libraries. A survey was sent to the library directors requesting assistance in establishing a baseline or snapshot of conditions as of January 2000. The survey is included on page 2 and responses received are summarized in the chart on page 3. We sent a draft of this document to each library director prior to publication for their review. Corrections requested have been included. Where blank spaces occur in the chart, no response was received

The current history of the issue is shown by an annotated list of local newspaper articles published between August 11th and December 14, 1999. Article headlines are quoted by paper by date with a synopsis of the article content. The number and tone of the articles illustrates the level of community interest in this issue.

As we gathered material, we found unfamiliar terminology and technology acronyms. We have listed those words or acronyms in Section 3 we found helpful. The last section lists a few of the printed and on-line resources used along with a December 29, 1999, MSN Web Search "filtering + Internet."

**PRESENT SITUATION:** Collin County public libraries are caught in the paradox of providing public access to an Internet containing materials that would never be selected for collection development or interlibrary loan. The public, local city officials, and county politicians discuss and mandate what should be available to the public and whether filtering software should be imposed on some or all public library computer terminals with access to the Internet. Technology has not been sufficiently developed to block only undesirable web sites, including both those objectionable for minors and sites considered sexually intimidating to public servants working in the library environment. Internet information is part of a broadcast which may be brought onto the screen inadvertently or intentionally by a patron. The librarian is unable to control the selection of web sites to insure (even with filters) only appropriate sites are accessed and the librarian is unable to stop the broadcast of inappropriate materials on the Internet. Libraries post notices and publish policies clearly stating that parents must supervise their children's Internet access. Libraries do not assume parental responsibility.

**FACTORS INFLUENCING THE PRESENT SITUATION:** Intellectual freedom and free speech protection issues caused challenges to the 1996 Communications Decency Act. On June 26, 1997, the Supreme Court ruled the Communications Decency Act unconstitutional even though the Congressional intent was to imprison or fine "any person who knowingly sends or displays materials over the Internet to minors that could be interpreted as 'indecent' or patently offensive by contemporary community standards.'" The American Library Association (ALA) adopted a Statement on Library Use of Filtering Software that says in part, "The use in libraries of software filters which block Constitutionally protected speech is inconsistent with the United States Constitution and federal law and may lead to legal exposure for the library and its governing authorities. The American Library Association affirms that the use of filtering software abridges the Library Bill of Rights." [see (<http://www.csn.net/~jlarue/alastatement.html>)] This double liability (filtering vs. intellectual freedom) is the basis for the Hudsonville, Michigan, public library's decision to no longer offer any access to the Internet.

As the stacks of information grew and the polarized positions became more evident, we decided to redefine the scope of our study. This guide to the status of Internet access in the Collin County public libraries as of January 2000, annotated list of local newspaper articles, glossary of terminology, and suggested resources is the result of our study. We are not presenting positions, proposing discussion, or recommending advocacy. We encourage individual members to use this study in their quest for information.

Community interest is indicated by the coverage in the local newspapers. An annotated listing of the articles published beginning in August 1999 follows.

Legend: DMN - "Dallas Morning News"

PMN - "Plano Morning News" section of "The Dallas Morning News."

PSC - "Plano Star Courier"

TWN - "The Wylie News"

D-Magazine - "D Magazine"

FN - "Fiscal Notes" Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

**DMN, 8/11/99** "Library panel backs computer-filter limit: 1 device at each branch should offer unfettered Internet access, majority says," by Jennifer Packer. A two month study by City Council and library advisory board representatives runs counter to the wishes of the Plano City Council members. Members agreed in May that the city should keep all forms of online obscenity out of Plano's four public libraries according to Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Rick Neudorff. Fred Frawley, one of the committee's three library advisory board representatives, said he supported one unfiltered computer per library because of the fallibility of filtering software and service providers. Mr. Frawley, an attorney, said the decision to leave one computer unfiltered is likely to stand up to legal challenges based on the First Amendment.

Mr. Neudorff and Mr. Roach wrote a minority report recommending filters on all library computers with Internet access. Both proposals are scheduled for consideration by the full council August 23. Library director Joyce Baumbach, who served as a consultant to the review committee, supports the majority recommendation. There are 3,000 Internet users a month and two or three complaints about pornography access since October. There is no need for a more stringent filtering policy.

**DMS, 8/12/99** "Library funds tied to filtering Internet: Ultimatum in Collin requires blocking out online obscenity," by Roy Appleton. A 3-2 vote blocked \$32,500 due the eight libraries in Collin County from the current year budget. Commissioners agreed to subsidize only those libraries that accept the Internet stipulation. None of the eight libraries, Wylie, Farmersville, Melissa, McKinney, Celina, Allen, Frisco, and Plano has Internet filters. All have policies requiring parental approval of children's access to the Internet.

Library directors said the county's action was a surprise and the city responses to the filtering concern is uncertain. When the budget was set there was no mention of the Internet, pornography or computer software filters. The county does not operate a library for taxpayers and other residents who live outside the eight cities. The libraries have been using county dollars to serve non-residents. If the funding goes away, libraries may have to start charging outsiders. Judy McCoy, Frisco library director said none of the county money is spent on the Internet and she is not sure she understands the logic of the county action. County Judge Ron Harris said that this is something that must be done as stewards of public money and they must start somewhere, even though he opposed the action on money already promised the libraries.

**PSC, 8/12/99** - "County cuts net funds: New budget also maintains tax rate, raises employee salaries" by Chris Coil. County Commissions eliminated all fourth quarter county library funding, retroactively, until restrictive viewing software is installed in public libraries. This vote expanded the Internet filtering debate festering in Plano during the past year to every public library in the county. Sue Compton, McKinney library director, said filtering devices do not work and raise censorship of free speech concerns.

**PMN, 8/21/99** - "Council set to vote on Net filters: Two plans are offered for library computers" by Jennifer Packer and Roy Appleton. Both plans proposed filters for public libraries in Plano with patrons younger than 17 having to get permission to sign on to the Internet at all. The plan filtering all but one computer at each library would provide access to the unfiltered computer only when denied access to legitimate sites. This computer would be placed away from the other computers.

The plans were proposed by a city panel composed of three library advisory board members and three council members. The panel was unable to reach consensus and issued two separate opinions with the majority supporting the plan to put one unfiltered computer in each library.

The Plano City Council was split with three supporting filtering every computer: Rick Neudorff, John Roach, Jr. and Cheryl Williams; and three supporting filtering all but one computer: Dick Bode, Phil Dyer, and Steve Stovall. First Amendment lawsuits pose a concern to Mayor John Longstreet who said he would consider potential litigation costs in his decision.

On August 9, 1999, Collin County Commissioners issued an ultimatum to public libraries to filter or lose funding from the County. The cities were angered by the County Commissioners action and County Judge Ron Harris said a softening of the "funds-for-filters dictate" was possible. Cities involved are Plano, McKinney, Allen, Frisco, Wylie, Farmersville, Celina, and Melissa.

**PSC, 8/22/99** Editorial: "Differences about Internet filtering a matter of degree." A win/win solution was advised between the extremists on each side; those wanting to filter every computer from sexually explicit material to information on bomb-making and hate groups and those defending the Constitution and Bill of Rights freedom of speech. The editors opined that neither side would hear the other and both would be unhappy with eventual solutions adopted. A solution representing a compromise was urged.

**DMN, 8/24/99** "Plano council votes to limit library Internet access," by Jennifer Packer. The Plano City Council adopted an Internet access plan permitting one unfiltered computer in each of the four libraries. Eighteen audience members addressed the council and were evenly divided on the two plans proposed. Joyce Baumbach, Plano's library director, reported that of the 46,000 times library patrons accessed the Internet since October 1, 1998, there have been 3 or 4 complaints about obscenity. Two levels of filtering will be provided with the more restrictive for patrons age 17 and younger. Parental permission is required for them to go online. Last fall a Plano resident reported seeing two boys viewing sexually oriented materials on a library computer.

**PMN, 8/24/99** "Library-financing review postponed," by Roy Appleton. The review of funding was postponed. Diana Philip, Regional Director of the ACLU wrote to commissions "A governmental entity's decision to use software to filter constitutionally protected information from its citizens is unwise and ineffective."

Librarians in Plano, McKinney, Allen, Frisco, Melissa, and Farmersville said they don't need software filters to screen obscenity. Library employees and existing policies are a sufficient filter, especially in smaller libraries, because staff can easily monitor computer use.

**DMN, 8/25/99** "Internet Use debate continues," by Jennifer Packer. After 10 months of discussion, the Plano City Council adopted a plan to filter all but one computer at each library. Ron Mershawn of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) said the policy adopted is a form of censorship. The unfiltered computer will be located away from the rest of the computers. Choosing the filtering software will be completed in two to three months.

Plano resident Jane Neidenfuehr reported to librarians and council members in the fall 1998 that two young boys had been looking at sexually oriented pictures on library computers.

**PSC, 9/2/99** "County overturns filtering decision," by Chris Coil. Commissioners reversed part of their Internet filtering policy because they learned books had already been purchased with the money and smaller libraries depend on the county allocation. A subcommittee of Commissioners Joe Jaynes and Phyllis Cole was appointed to study each library system's policy and bring a recommendation back to the court in early October. Commissioner Jerry Hoagland still favored the original no filter-no funds position and stated the court's backtracking had extended the discussion beyond the point of reason. The court's hiring an attorney at \$40,000 to \$50,000 to give away \$120,000 didn't make economic sense to Commissioner Hoagland.

Commissioners directed staff to inquire about installing filters on all county computers that have Internet access. Bob Lindberg, Collin County director of administrative services, raised concerns that the sheriff's and district attorney's offices may need all sites available during an investigation.

**WN, 9/8/99** "Collin commissioners ask libraries to filter public Internet access," by Donnita Nesbit Fisher. Commissioner Hoagland said the commissioners are not trying to coerce cities into complying. "We are not dictating they have to change their policies. We're simply saying if you want county funding, this is what you have

to do to get it.” This position is subject to results of the the subcommittee review of each library’s policy. Hoagland was quoted, “It is my conviction that children in particular but grown ups also, do not need to have access to some web sites. There are things such as pornography, bestiality, gambling. Things that are not only pornographic but also very detrimental to people.” Wylie Library Director Mignon Morse said that parents are responsible for monitoring their children’s activity on the Internet and the Library does not censor access to materials or protect users from materials they may find offensive.

**PSC, 9/12/99** Editorial: “Where do we draw the line?” Where does public library funding come from and who decides what should be in a public library -- whether book, magazine, CD, video, or Internet access? The county pays a miniscule \$130,000 to the eight public library systems. If they get sued, will the county pay the costs of litigation? Why would voters permit the county to set precedent by taking action on Internet access? Is the 4% county contribution to the area mental health budget enough for the commissioners to withdraw funding if they disagree with a decision? Residents may want to think about where to draw the line as a commissioners court subcommittee reviews each library system’s Internet access policies prior to another commissioner funding vote in October.

**FN, 9/99** “Texas: Wired Up” Texas has 4.6 million Internet users, following only California according to an in-depth survey conducted by CyberDialogue. Austin leads the nation in percentage of wired residents; Dallas ranks 8<sup>th</sup>; Houston 24<sup>th</sup>; and San Antonio 44<sup>th</sup>. Overall Texas ranks 19<sup>th</sup> in percentage of users.

**PMN, 9/28/99** “Commissioners delay funding for libraries: Official wants policies to bar access to porn on Net” by Curtis Howell -County Judge Ron Harris stated that \$130,000 in funding for libraries would be delayed due to the fact libraries in Wylie, McKinney and Melissa do not specifically prohibit the use of library computers to access sexually explicit material on the Internet. The commissioners had backed off their earlier ultimatum requiring filters in response to objections from library officials and threatened legal action from the American Civil Liberties Union. Decision was delayed until the next regularly scheduled commissioners court meeting set for October 11, 1999.

**PSC, 10/8/99** “Plano libraries likely to implement Internet filter,” by Ryan P. Bauer. The library advisory board recommended the libraries implement the same filtering program the school district has been using. The N2H2, BESS application was considered the most user-friendly and suitable for the libraries’ needs. According to the N2H2 website, BESS uses 100% human review process to protect children from pornography, hate material, violence and other inappropriate materials on the Internet. Joyce Baumbach, library director, said the board made a thoughtful decision on which application to use -- it may not be the best, but it fits Plano’s needs. Parents who prefer that their children have full access to the Internet may opt to sign a permission slip allowing their child to have that freedom. Board chair Robert Johntz said the filtering will be an evolving situation and will probably have changes and improvements added in the future. Filters are expected to be in place next month.

**DM, 11/99** “Dallas Libraries: Unfiltered - Children have unfettered access to [www.porn.com](http://www.porn.com),” edited by Glenna Whitley in “Pulse of the City.” Radio talk show host Dr. Laura Schlessinger and the American Library Association are locked in a fight over keeping Internet porn out of public libraries using filters. Bonnie Case, director of the Highland Park library said there is no way to be sure you child doesn’t see what parents don’t want them to see if the parents are not with the child. Library systems in Dallas, Richardson, Highland Park, and Plano do not regulate where potentially offensive material is viewed. The Dallas city library computers do not offer filtering software, and even if they did, filtering is not foolproof. The Web is full of sites with instructions on how to disable filter software. Filters also may block innocuous sites while leaving loopholes for web designers to slip X-rated pages through.

The Plano City Council, concerned parents, and librarians may have found a solution: filtering computers with Internet access on two levels and offering one unfiltered computer for those who want complete access. One filter level is for young children and adolescents and one is for adult patrons who wish to avoid certain types of sites. Any child wishing to use the Internet will be required to have parental permission, which is coded into the library’s main system. An access number shown on the library card designates the type of material to be viewed. Joyce Baumbach, director of the Plano public libraries said parents are still encouraged to come with their children because there is no guarantee that filters will block objectionable material. Parents should not succumb to a false sense of security.

**PMN, 11/24/99** "Library's porn-filter plan OK'd: Internet restrictions set for next month," by Jennifer Packer. The Plano City Council approved a procedure for installing filters for library computers with Internet access on Monday (11/22/99). Viewers younger than 18 will be blocked from viewing sites that contain nudity, profanity or chat rooms. These patrons must also obtain written permission from their parents to use library computers.

One unfiltered computer will be available in each branch for users with the least restrictive access who feel they have been blocked from a site that meets the city's viewing guidelines. Council member John Roach, Jr. praised library staff and the advisory board even though he had pushed for a more restrictive filtering policy. The library will use filtering software known as Bess, provided by Seattle-based N2H2 Inc., the same system used by the Plano Independent School District. The Bess system will cost \$4,000 to install on 28 computers which is less than half the amount the city officials initially set aside.

**PMN, 12/14/99** "Libraries begin using Web filters on computers: Extra steps among few complaints about sex-content policy," by Diana Griffith. At the end of a year of debate, Plano began filtering Internet access at its public libraries on Monday. Harrington Library Manager, Anne Womack said many patrons were not aware the debate was going on. They noticed the new Internet Policy Form which all users must fill out before accessing the Internet at any of the libraries.

Plano's debate attracted the attention of Collin County Commissioners, who in September held up county library funding to several cities that the commissioners believed were not doing enough to filter explicit material. Policy changes were made in McKinney, Melissa and Wylie and the \$130,000 was released Monday (12/13/99) to help fund eight city libraries.

"Under the new filtering policy, patrons will be blocked from adult sites defined as obscene by the Texas Penal Code and from chat rooms. New time limits of 90 minutes a session will also be enforced by the filtering software."

Each library will keep a log of patron comments about the new policy to be used when the policy comes up for review in the spring. One minor blocked from a site told the librarian he would just go to the Collin County Community College library where there is no filtering software in use.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - PLANO/COLLIN COUNTY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY SURVEY - OCTOBER 1999**

The Internet Filtering Study Committee is preparing a report on the status of connection to the world-wide-web as of January 2000 in Collin County. Your assistance is critical to the success of this project. Please return your responses to this survey and a copy of your "Internet Policies" by **OCTOBER 29, 1999**.

Library Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Number of library card holders \_\_\_\_\_

Level of Internet access you provide: dial-up \_\_\_ / ISDN \_\_\_ / T-1 \_\_\_ / above T-1 \_\_\_\_\_  
**ADSL** \_\_\_\_\_ / **Other and explain** \_\_\_\_\_

Number of computers with access: \_\_\_ / number filtered \_\_\_ / number unfiltered \_\_\_\_\_

**If filtered, what filtering software, or through a vendor by a proxy server.**

Available statistics on use of Internet access: \_\_\_\_\_  
(attach separate sheet if more convenient)

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Library web page: URL address \_\_\_\_\_ / date planned \_\_\_\_\_

Collection catalog on-line: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ / If no, date planned \_\_\_\_\_

On-line transactions available: hold \_\_\_ / renewals \_\_\_ / interlibrary loan \_\_\_\_\_

Library technology director: full time \_\_\_\_\_ / part-time \_\_\_\_\_ / planned \_\_\_\_\_

Does the City have a technology director?

Funding portfolio SFY 2000: local \_\_\_\_\_ / county \_\_\_\_\_ / 4B \_\_\_\_\_

Grants non-competitive \_\_\_\_\_ / competitive \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Video-conferencing: available to community \_\_\_\_\_ / planned \_\_\_\_\_ / joint \_\_\_\_\_

Partners: business \_\_\_\_\_ / school district \_\_\_\_\_ / city \_\_\_\_\_

Databases linked (attach separate page if more convenient) \_\_\_\_\_

Collaborative Community Network: in place \_\_\_ / planned \_\_\_ / applied for \_\_\_\_\_

Growth projected in next 5 years: square feet space \_\_\_\_\_ / number of users \_\_\_\_\_

Services added \_\_\_\_\_ / computer terminals planned \_\_\_\_\_

## Internet Search Results

Search results for: '**filtering + Internet**' (MSN search December 29, 1999)

1. [Senate OK's CDA II, Gambling Bill](http://www.news.com/News/Item/0,4,24533,00.html)  
http://www.news.com/News/Item/0,4,24533,00.html  
From CNET, an article covering the Senate's passage of several bills dealing with Internet gambling, the distribution of material "harmful to minors," and filtering software at schools and libraries.
2. [Innovative Protection Solutions](http://www.ips-corp.com)  
http://www.ips-corp.com  
Providers of information security solutions and Internet filtering software.
3. [Solid Oak Software](http://www.cybersitter.com)  
http://www.cybersitter.com  
This company develops and markets Internet filtering software. CYBERSitter is one of their products, developed so parents can attempt to limit children's access to inappropriate Web content.
4. [TIFAP: Internet Filter Assessment Project](http://www.bluehighways.com/tifap)  
http://www.bluehighways.com/tifap  
Evaluates Internet filtering software from a librarian's perspective. Learn more about the project, read the report and link to filter sites.
5. [Welcome to Netparents.org](http://www.netparents.org)  
http://www.netparents.org  
Netparents is an organization that makes available information and tools for filtering materials deemed inappropriate for children on the Internet.
6. [Cyber Patrol](http://www.microsys.com/cyber)  
http://www.microsys.com/cyber  
Cyber Patrol is Internet filtering software used to manage Internet access, limit the total time spent online and block access to Internet sites that users deem inappropriate. A download of the software and more information is available at this site.
7. [CleanInter.net - Filtered Internet](http://www.cleaninter.net/Visitor.asp)  
http://www.cleaninter.net/Visitor.asp  
Christian-owned and operated company invites concerned parents to learn about its Internet filtering service.
8. [SmartStuff Software](http://www.smartstuff.com/)  
http://www.smartstuff.com/  
Tools for schools include content-filtering for the Internet, and an administrator toolkit.
9. [Res Privata](http://www.ozemail.com.au/~naibor/rpriv.html)  
http://www.ozemail.com.au/~naibor/rpriv.html  
Get details on this application for filtering private data from genealogy database, or GEDCOM, files for more privacy and Internet publishing.
10. [UPNet Communications](http://www.upnet.net)  
http://www.upnet.net  
Serves the Baltimore area with dial-up Internet access, Web site hosting and design. Offers server-side filtering of adult sites.
11. [UpLink](http://www.uplink.net/)  
http://www.uplink.net/  
Internet service provider for Massachusetts explains various connection methods. Details its Internet filtering.
12. [The Digital Design Company](http://www.tddc.net/)  
http://www.tddc.net/  
Company serves south and east Texas with Internet access plans and other Web services. Read up on filtering software.
13. [Perigee.net](http://www.perigee.net/)  
http://www.perigee.net/  
Charlotte Internet service provider offers online courses, filtering software and some tips on controlling spam.
14. [Community Connections](http://www.ccnv.net/fl/gainesville/)  
http://www.ccnv.net/fl/gainesville/  
Gainesville-based ISP provides access to over 500 cities in the US. Find out about its Internet filtering services.

15. [Net Shepherd](http://www.netshepherd.com/)  
http://www.netshepherd.com/  
Internet filtering package for Mac and Windows allows users to rate sites, and block those the user finds distasteful.
16. [CIS Internet](http://www.wv-cis.net/)  
http://www.wv-cis.net/  
Offers Internet access to the residents of the Scott Depot area. Access packages include optional filtering.
17. [Library Safe Internet System](http://www.librarysafe.com/)  
http://www.librarysafe.com/  
Provides server-based Internet filtering system for libraries and schools to block adult sites. Browse special programs and company news.
18. [Netrex](http://www.netrex.com/)  
http://www.netrex.com/  
Michigan-based ISP offers Internet connectivity and security solutions, including firewalls and URL filtering software.
19. [VEI Internet](http://vei.vei.net/)  
http://vei.vei.net/  
Chattanooga, Tennessee, ISP offers Internet services, filtering services for schools and families, and hosting packages.
20. [FamilyConnect](http://www.FamilyConnect.com/)  
http://www.FamilyConnect.com/  
Offers high speed Internet access and is protected by one of the most effective server-side filtering systems

## Internet Filtering Study Resources

Survey responses received from Collin County public libraries as summarized in the chart on page 3.

Newspapers carrying local Internet filter and library related articles to include THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, THE PLANO MORNING NEWS, PLANO STAR COURIER, and THE WYLIE NEWS. D-MAGAZINE and FISCAL NOTES (published by the State of Texas Comptroller's Office) were used as referenced.

*Internet 101: Learning the Basics of Searching the Web.* Mesquite: Mesquite Public Library System  
(<http://www.library.mesquite.tx.us>)

*Public Library Advisory Board Handbook, Revised Edition.* Developed by a committee of the Public Library Administrators of North Texas with a grant from the Library Development Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Austin, Texas, 1998.

*The Road from Study to Action: A Guide to Local Program,* Revised by Liz Lerner, LWV-Dallas, using material from *Choosing and Developing Local League Program* (LWV-TX, 6/83). Austin: League of Women Voters of Texas, July 1997

Williams, Robert L., *Wireless Community Networks: A Guide for Library Boards, Educators, and Community Leaders.* Austin: Library Development Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, 1999.

### Internet Sources:

- 3 <http://www.aclu.org/issues/cyber/burning.html> - American Civil Liberties Union
- 4 <http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif.html> - American Library Association Office of Intellectual Freedom
- 5 <http://www.ala.org/oitp/> - American Library Association Office for Information Technology
- 6 <http://www.ala.org/parentspage/> - American Library Association Parents Page
- 7 <http://www.bluehighways.com/safenetting/>
- 8 <http://www.censorware.org/>
- 9 <http://www.childrenspartnership.org/parentguide/>
- 10 <http://www.ci.oswego.or.us/library/poli.html>
- 11 <http://www.co.collin.tx.us/commissioners/>
- 12 <http://www.ctw.org/> - Children's Television Workshop, Sesame Street in Cyberspace
- 13 <http://www.filteringfacts.com> - Archive -Pro-filters
- 14 <http://www.getnetwise.org/>
- 15 <http://www.infopeople.org/src/guide.html> - Search Engine Quick Guide
- 16 <http://www.ipl.org/> - Internet Public Library
- 17 <http://www.librarysafe.com/>
- 18 <http://www.ljdigital.com/articles> - "Library Journal" articles in digital format
- 19 <http://www.loc.gov> - Library of Congress
- 20 <http://www.n2h2.com/pressroom/filtering/> - BESS Software
- 21 <http://www.pbs.org/uti/begin.html> - Understanding and Using the Internet: Beginner's Guide
- 22 <http://www.peacefire.org/> - How to disable blocking software
- 23 <http://www.txla.org/groups/pld> - Public Library Division of Texas Library Association



## LWV/Plano-Collin County - Library Internet Filtering Survey Results

Library	Number of Cardholder	Access Type	Public Access Computers	Filters Yes/No	Access to Internet/Mo.	Catalog On-Line	On-line Transactions	Policy Y/N No. pages	FT Director URL Projections
Allen	23,291	ISDN	4	No	5,579/12 mo	Yes	Hold Renewal	Yes 3 pages	Director FT <a href="http://www.ci.allen.tx.us/Services/Library/Library.htm">www.ci.allen.tx.us/Services/Library/Library.htm</a>
Celina with Cisd		T-1	8	Yes Region 10	1/3 of patrons	No Planned 2000	Inter-Lib. Loan (ILL)	Yes 6 pages	Planned 2000
Farmersville	5,399	Dial-up	2	No	635/10 mo.	No		Yes 2 pages	
Frisco	4,416 (active)	ISDN	2	No		No		Yes 2 pages	FT Director <a href="http://www.friscolibrary.org">www.friscolibrary.org</a>
McKinney	18,800	T-1	8	No	1,200/mo	No Planned 2000		Yes 3 pages	FT Director
Melissa	1,065	T-1	3	No (in process )	40 hrs/week	No		Yes 4 pages	No Director FT Partners with MISD/via T-1 <a href="http://www.melissa.lib.tx.org">www.melissa.lib.tx.org</a>
Plano Haggard Harrington Davis Schmilpfenig	126,035	T-1	32	Yes 28 No 4	56,492/ 12 mo	Yes	Hold Renewal	Yes 2 pages	FT Director <a href="http://www.planolibrary.org">www.planolibrary.org</a> Plan to add 30,000sq.ft Grow to 150,000 users
Wylie	8,725	ISDN	5	No	40 hrs/wk	Yes	Hold	Yes 5 pages	Director FT <a href="http://www.ci.wylie.tx.us/library">www.ci.wylie.tx.us/library</a> Hope for Tech.Dir Partners w/WISD
<b>Totals</b>	187,731	4 T-1 3 ISDN 1 Dialup	64			3 On-line 5 not		8 Yes	



## Internet Terminology

ADSL - Asynchronous Digital Subscriber Line: a new type of service run over regular voice-grade telephone lines requiring special end-user equipment. Provides from 400Kbps-1Mbps (400 thousand bits per second to 1 million bits per second) transfer speeds. Not yet available in most areas.

airwaves - radio waves used to transmit radio and television broadcasts across freespace; also, the connection medium between two wireless bridges.

acquisition - the process of acquiring library materials which make up the library's collection.

ALA - American Library Association - Founded in 1876, the oldest and largest national library association in the world. The ALA objective is to promote and improve library service and librarianship and to provide life-long learning services to all.

ASCII - American Standard Code for Information Interchange; a code for microcomputers that assigns a numeric code from 0 to 255 to each of the letters of the English alphabet, numerals, punctuation marks, and many other language characters.

AV - audiovisual materials - nonbook materials such as tapes, slides, filmstrips, recordings, videos, motion pictures, and compact discs.

bandwidth - commonly used to indicate how much, or how fast, data can be transmitted across a telecommunications line or connection in a period of time, usually one second. Used synonymously with data transfer rate, throughput, and line speed.

binary - the base-2 number system, representing all numeric values with just two digits, 0 and 1.

bookmark - a way to mark interesting or frequently used spots on the Internet so you can revisit these pages without having to type in the web address.

Boolean - "boolean logic" is a system for searching and retrieving information from computers by using and combining terms such as AND, OR, and NOT to sort data. These operators enable search engines to retrieve more specific results from your inquiry.

browser - software such as netscape Navigator or Microsoft's Internet Explorer that allows a user to locate and display Web pages and other Internet resources.

bibliography - primarily used to describe a listing of sources of information on a given subject or of works by a given author.

bit - acronym for binary digit representing a binary value of zero or one. The smallest unit of storage on a computer represented by the lowercase letter b.

bps - bits-per-second - a common unit of measure for data transfer rates.

byte - a unit of eight bits commonly used to encode textual data. Used to measure the storage requirements of various data objects and represented by the uppercase letter B.

Call Number - the set of symbols identifying a particular item in a library collection and indicating its location. Usually includes a subject classification number and a book number or letters of the author's surname.

Card catalog - an author, title, and subject listing of a library's holdings or collection on 3" x 5" cards.

CATV - cable television, originally called Community Antenna Television.

Cat5, or Category 5, cable - the recommended level of unshielded twisted pair cable used in most new local area network installations.

channels - a specific band of the radio frequency spectrum used for radio transmissions.

chat - communicate by typing and receiving messages to other people in real time, without the delays of bulletin boards or e-mail.

circulation - the library activity of lending materials to borrowers and the library recordings of such loans. Term also means the library department or "station" within the library which checks materials out to users and receives returned materials. Can also mean statistics showing extent of use of the library through the count of materials checked out.

collection - the library's total accumulation of materials, (the books, films, CD's, audiocassettes, videocassettes, etc.) which make up what the library owns for its users.

cookie - information stored on your computer's hard drive by a Web page after you view it, which helps it "recognize" you on your next visit.

Copyright - the right granted by a government to an author, composer, or artist for control of the publication, sale, and reproduction of the work. The U.S. Copyright Law was significantly revised in 1978 with potentially far-reaching consequences for copyright holders, librarians and library users.

database - a systematically organized collection of information. Most often refers to data stored in a computer system to be extracted electronically.

DDC - Dewey Decimal Classification - a system for classifying and shelving books and other library materials which utilizes a hierarchical scheme which has 10 major divisions from 000 (General Works) through 900 (History). Each of the 10 divisions contains 10 subdivisions.

domain name - the name registered for an Internet site. The end is the top-level domain - .com, .org, .edu, .gov - which shows what type of entity is behind the site. The part before that is the second-level domain, which is more specific, is usually the name or shortened name of the company, organization, or person.

Download - copy a file or program from another computer or the Internet onto your computer's hard drive.

E-mail - electronic mail that can be transmitted through the Internet and read by other computers.

Ethernet - a standard computer networking communication format. It is the most common network format in use today. Token Ring is another that is still in wide use in businesses.

FAQS (Frequently Asked Questions) - questions and answers on a topic, common in newsgroups and on Web sites.

fiber optics - technology that used the transmission of light along glass tubes (fibers) for data communications.

filters - software that allows the user to block certain areas of the Internet.

FTP (File Transfer Protocol) - a way of obtaining or sending files over the Internet from certain sites, which can be public or private.

G, giga - an abbreviation for the value one billion. Since computers use the binary number system instead of decimal, the actual value represented is 1,073,741,824.

gain - a measure of the amount of focus an antenna uses transmitting/receiving a radio signal.

hardware - the physical components of a computer or network.

Hertz - a unit of measure of electromagnetic frequency named after Heinrich Hertz. One hertz corresponds to one cycle per second (or one wave per second.)

home page - the first page of a Web site.

HTML (Hypertext Markup language) - the programming language used to create Web pages, which browsers can read.

HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol) - the command that moves hypertext pages over the Internet. It is the first part of an address located on the Web ("http://"), and is followed by the domain name.

inter-local agreement - a legal document describing an agreement between two or more local governmental agencies to work as one agency on a project. The agreement generally lists the rights and responsibilities of each participant.

Internet backbone - the top-level, or primary, routers and telecommunications circuits interconnecting all of the major computer networks that make up the Internet.

Internet Service provider (ISP) - a commercial or public agency providing interconnections to the Internet, either via network or dial-up services. Services provided vary greatly between public and commercial providers.

ISBN - International Standard Book Number -A number given to a book before publication to identify it concisely, uniquely, and unambiguously. The numbering system is administered among cooperating publishers in participating countries.

ISDN line (Integrated Services Digital Line) - a special phone line, carrying only digital (discrete) signals. ISDN lines are switchable and can be used as regular phone lines. They are primarily used to carry data traffic. Two types are available BRI (basic rate interface) and PRI (primary rate interface) which is equivalent to 23 BRI lines.

ISM bands - three non-licensed radio frequency bands, originally intended for the industrial, scientific, and medical communities, typically used for radio frequency wireless networks.

ISSN - International Standard Serial Number.

K, kilo - an abbreviation for the value one thousand (in binary system actual value represented is 1,024 decimal value).

LAN - local area network is a group of computers connected over a communications medium for the purpose of sharing access to centralized resources such as files, printers, CD-ROM products.

Latency - very short delays in the packaging, transmission, and acknowledgement of network data requests.

Lay Representative - Under the Texas Library Systems Act (LSA), a citizen who is appointed to represent that library and vote for that library in system affairs. The citizen does not work for the local library and can stand for election to the system's Advisory Council.

library - a place where all types of information is stored, systematically organized, and made available for use. The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) passed in 1997 replaced the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) passed in 1956 and amended in 1965, 1977, and 1986. Provides funds for public library development, construction of facilities, interlibrary cooperative efforts, and integration of technology. Emphasizes a collaborative approach providing library services to under-served populations.

Library of Congress - Established as the research library for Congress, it acts as the National Library with more than 17 million books, manuscripts, maps, etc.

M, mega - an abbreviation for the value one million in binary system (1,048,576 in the decimal system)

magnetic tape (mag tape) - Medium for storing audio and video signals and digital data.

MAN - a municipal area network is two or more interconnected local area networks generally inside a single community.

MARC - Machine Readable Cataloging - developed by the Library of Congress to provide a standard format for the exchange of machine-readable bibliographic information.

media - materials in all formats and all channels of communication that serve as carriers of information.

microfiche - a flat sheet of photographic film usually 4"x6" or 3"x5" containing micro-images in a grid pattern. Special equipment is needed to read microfiche.

microfilm - photographic films containing micro-images, positive or negative, on rolls which may be 8, 16, 35, or 70 mm wide and up to several thousand feet long. Special equipment is required to read microfilm.

microforms - microfiche, micro-opaques, and microfilm used to store graphics and printed matter. Special equipment is usually required to read microforms.

multi-point - a network connection allowing one centralized site to connect to multiple remote sites simultaneously.

narrowband transmissions - radio frequency transmissions that use a very thin slice of frequencies, sometimes called "channels."

network - a group of computers joined together with a network operating system controlling network functions and the local area network (LAN).

network protocol - a set of rules used for continuing data communications.

network security - procedures designed to limit access to a predetermined set of computers and prevent tampering or unauthorized use or destruction of computer data.

non-resident - a person using a library who neither resides within nor pays taxes to the governmental jurisdiction providing the library services.

Office of Intellectual Freedom (OIF) - an office of the American Library Association (ALA) encompassing all intellectual freedom issues and activities.

online system - connection of remote user computer to a central computer through telecommunications.

point-to-point - a network connection tied directly to two locations.

POTS - plain old telephone service, a regular voice-grade telephone line.

protocol - a set of rules, or procedures, governing a process.

periodical - a publication published at regular or stated intervals, usually more frequently than annually.

PLA - Public Library Association is an organization within the American Library Association focusing on issues and activities of American public libraries.

PLANT - Public Library Administrators of North Texas - an organization of public library directors for the mutual aid of all public library administrators. Membership by invitation.

PLD - Public Library Division within the Texas Library Association (TLA) devoted to issues and activities of Texas public libraries.

processing - preparation of books and other materials so they may be placed in circulation. May include cataloging, making protective covers, preparing catalog information, etc.

radio frequency spectrum - the portion of the electromagnetic spectrum from approximately 30kHz to 1Ghz. Radio frequencies used to carry voice and data signals between two or more access points.

reciprocal borrowing - extension of lending privileges to citizens of other communities or libraries.

redundancy - independent, alternative routes available for data communications in the event of failure of a primary connection.

repeater link/station - a third site in a wireless network connection which has line of sight to the two primary access points to receive/transmit signals to remote sites through bridges and antennas.

Right-of-way fees - costs incurred for crossing public or private land in the process of burying cable or pipeline or installing cable on utility poles. Paid by monthly or annual payments to rights holders.

rotating collection - any collection of materials supplied by a central organization for use in other locations before being sent on to other libraries.

shelf list - a catalog of items in a library collection arranged by call number.

site survey - preliminary investigation of line of sight, sources of potential interference, transmission distances, and physical structures before a wireless network installation.

software - a set of binary instructions that allows a user to control a computer or computer related device.

stacks - a set or series of bookcases arranged in rows or ranges, freestanding or multi-tiered, for storing a library's collection. May include areas closed to general users.

T-1 lines - a special type of telephone line capable of carrying both voice and data signals. Not "dialable" or "switchable" connection between two distinct points to allow intercommunication.

telecommunications - transmitting data between remote locations. Common methods include modem, ISDN, T-1, radio, microwave, and fiber optic.

telecommunications line - a "telephone" line leased from the local phone company which is a dedicated data circuit.

throughput - refers to data transfer rate or bandwidth or in wireless applications, refers to the actual quantity of data that can be transmitted over a wireless link.

TIF - Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund is comprised of e-rate charges on telephone service to serve underserved or rural areas.

transponder - (transmitter/responder) portion of a satellite transmitting and receiving radio signals in a prescribed frequency range from ground stations or other satellites.

truncation - use of common letters in several words to retrieve all the variations in one search term, for example: *femini\** retrieves *feminine, feminist, feminism, etc.*

TSLAC - Texas State Library and Archives Commission - an agency of the Texas state government, also known as the Texas State Library, charged with aiding and encouraging the development of libraries; collecting, preserving,

classifying, and publishing manuscripts related to Texas history; and serving the reading needs of the state's blind and physically handicapped citizens.

URL - Universal or Uniform Resource Locator. The address of a resource on the Internet. Typically, the first part of the URL specifies the protocol used to access it, such as: <http://www> ---

under-utilized line - using less than the potential throughput of a telecommunications line.

vertical file - a collection of materials such as pamphlets, clippings, and pictures filed vertically in drawers for easy reference, often of an ephemeral nature (soccer league schedules, for example).

WWW - World Wide Web - global network of information servers using a specific protocol for communication.

WAN - wide area network connecting two or more interconnected local area networks (LANs) and generally located in two or more communities.

weed/weeding - withdrawing items from a library collection to transfer to a storage area or dispose of.

wideband transmissions - radio frequency transmissions that use a very large range of frequencies.

wireless bridge - a combination device including a network bridge and radio transceiver connecting a local area network (LAN) to a radio link.

wireless Ethernet - wireless network connections that provide a throughput of 5-7Mbps similar to the data throughput of standard, wired Ethernet networks.

wireline connection - traditional network cable and telecommunications lines, also known as cabled connectivity.

Z39.50 - a protocol providing library users easy access to other libraries' automated systems.