



E-Rate, CIPA and your library

Mid-Hudson Library System

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Just the basics, please

- ◆ E-rate
- ◆ CIPA—what, why, how
- ◆ CIPA compliance and e-rate
- ◆ “Technology Protection Measures”
- ◆ CIPA litigation
- ◆ Alternatives and choices
- ◆ Timeline
- ◆ Where to go for more information



What is e-rate?

- ◆ A part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996
- ◆ Intended to provide libraries and schools with financial relief for
 - Telephone lines
 - Internet access
 - Internal connections (networking of PCs)
- ◆ Requires annual application process for reimbursement of some of the costs



E-rate

- ◆ E-rate eligibility and level of discount depends upon two major factors:
 - Did the library fill out all the paperwork on time and correctly?
 - What is the percentage of students in the school who are *eligible* for the free and reduced lunch program?
- ◆ New wrinkle for Year 4 and beyond--CIPA



What is CIPA?

- ◆ CIPA stands for the Children's Internet Protection Act, passed by Congress in December, 2000
- ◆ In order to receive e-rate reimbursement for Internet access, schools and libraries must comply with CIPA
- ◆ CIPA relates only to e-rate and LSTA monies [not all government funding sources]




What are CIPA's requirements?

- ◆ “Technology protection measures” (filters) must be used on all library computers with Internet access
- ◆ The filtering must protect against access to certain visual depictions (“naughty pictures”)
- ◆ The library must adopt and implement an Internet safety policy that addresses Internet access and filters for all PCs in the library
- ◆ The library must hold a public meeting to discuss the Internet safety policy prior to adopting the policy



What is full CIPA compliance?

- ◆ If a library decides to comply with CIPA, the library will hold a public hearing on the Internet Safety Policy, pass the Policy, and filter
- ◆ If a library decides not to comply with CIPA then it will be eligible only for telephone line reimbursement (not for Internet or internal connections)



Technology Protection Measures

- ◆ Better known as filters, the intent is to protect users from pornography
- ◆ The software works to filter Web content by putting itself between the browser and the Internet
- ◆ Objectionable content (sex, breast, bambi) is prevented from displaying in the browser
- ◆ Whole sites or an entire Web hosts' sites may be banned as well, depending on how the filter works
- ◆ Filtering software companies do not reveal which sites or terms they block—trade secrets, they say



Filters

- ◆ Sometimes filters block sites that shouldn't be blocked, usually due to not considering the context of the objectionable word
- ◆ In other cases, sites seem to be blocked because of political or moral perspectives
- ◆ During testing by Consumer Reports, most filters failed to block 1 site in 5



Why are folks upset with CIPA?

- ◆ Libraries already have locally-established Internet use policies
- ◆ These established policies are
 - Community-based
 - A more positive or encouraging management method
 - Compatible with how libraries manage other formats
- ◆ CIPA mandates restrict Internet access for all patrons
- ◆ Filters are fallible



CIPA, litigation, and libraries

- ◆ ALA <http://www.ala.org/news/v7n1/cipa.html>
- ◆ ACLU press release on its anti-CIPA suit
<http://www.aclu.org/news/2001/n032001b.html>
- ◆ “Libraries: filter out filters”
<http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,42522,00.html>
- ◆ “The reluctant library cops”
<http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,42522,00.html>



There are other more effective ways for a library to manage its Internet access besides the CIPA mandates for filters



Alternatives to CIPA

- ◆ Internet Use Policy
- ◆ Parental consent forms for children/minors
- ◆ Privacy screens
- ◆ Location of stations
- ◆ Educating library users on Internet use
- ◆ Trustee cooperation
- ◆ Security and other resources and tools



Choices and courses

◆ No CIPA compliance

- No longer eligible for Internet access e-rate reimbursement
- No longer eligible for internal connections e-rate reimbursement
- No longer eligible for LSTA projects that include Internet access
- Does not affect any other funding stream



Choices and courses

◆ CIPA compliance

- Eligible for all e-rate reimbursement categories
- Eligible for LSTA
- Must replace your library's existing Internet Use policy and develop an Internet Safety Policy for all PCs in the library
- Must hold a public hearing on the Internet Safety Policy before adopting it



Timeline for certification of CIPA compliance

- ◆ For Year 4 of E-Rate (July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002) “compliance” means that a library is evaluating the “technology protection measures” and Internet Safety Policy CIPA mandates
- ◆ For Year 5 (July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003) “compliance” means full compliance



CIPA and your library NOW

- ◆ To preserve your right to receive Year 4 E-rate Internet access discounts you must “undertake action” toward CIPA compliance by July 1, 2001 (and document these actions), which could include any one of the following actions:



CIPA and your library NOW

- Attending a training program on CIPA compliance
- Discussing CIPA compliance at a library board or staff meeting
- Requesting a quote which includes information on a Technology Protection Measure from a service provider
- Issuing an RFP or other procurement tool to solicit bids for Technology Protection Measures



CIPA and your library NOW

- Holding an open public meeting to discuss an Internet Safety Policy
- Outlining in a memo to an administrative authority for the library the CIPA issues not addressed by your current Internet Use Policy
- Writing a memo or report to an administrative authority of the library describing research on available Technological Protection Measures



Want more info on e-rate?

- ◆ Schools and Libraries Division (they administer e-rate)

<http://www.sl.universalservice.org/>

- ◆ E-Rate Central (New York State's e-rate experts) <http://www.eratecentral.com/>

- ◆ New York State Library's E-Rate fact sheet

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/univsvc/ersf.htm>



Want more info on CIPA?

- ◆ American Library Association's CIPA info site

<http://www.ala.org/cipa/>

- ◆ CIPA legislation

<http://www.cdt.org/legislation/106th/speech/001218cipa.pdf>



Want more info on filters?

- ◆ COPA Commission

<http://www.copacommission.org/report/>

- ◆ ALA's position on filtering

http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/filt_stm.html

- ◆ Consumer Reports review of filters

http://www.consumerreports.org/main/detail.jsp?CONTENT%3C%3Ecnt_id=18867&FOLDER%3C%3Efolder_id=18151&bmUID=992396273136



Want more info on filters?

- ◆ Librarians' Index to the Internet

<http://www.lii.org/search?title=Internet+Censoring+and+Filtering;query=Internet+Censorship;searchtype=subject>

- ◆ Internet filtering in public libraries memo

<http://www.ftrf.org/internetfilteringmemo.html>

Questions?

