

# South San Francisco Public Library

## Blog Content Policy

The South San Francisco Public Library encourages communication, self-expression and freedom of speech by providing library related blogs for public use. Blogs increase the availability of information, encourage healthy debate and make possible new connections within our community.

We respect our users' ownership of and responsibility for the content they choose to share. It is our belief that censoring this content is contrary to a service that bases itself on freedom of expression.

This policy is compatible with the Library's endorsement of the *Library Bill of Rights*, the *Freedom to Read*, and the *Freedom to View* statements from the American Library Association. As with all Library resources, the Library affirms the right and responsibility of parents/guardians, NOT Library staff, to determine and monitor their minor children's use of Library blogs.

In order to uphold these values, we need to curb abuses that threaten our ability to provide this service. As a result, there are some boundaries on the type of content that can be posted to SSF Library blogs. The boundaries we've defined are those that both comply with legal requirements and that serve to enhance the service as a whole.

### **CONTENT BOUNDARIES:**

- **Illegal Purposes** – Library blogs may not be used for illegal purposes.
- **Identity Theft and Privacy** – Posts that misleadingly appropriate the identity of another person are not permitted. Users may not post other people's personally identifying or confidential information, including but not limited to credit card numbers, Social Security Numbers, and driver's and other license numbers. You may not post information such as other people's passwords, usernames, phone numbers, addresses and e-mail addresses unless already publicly accessible on the web.
- **Inappropriate Content** – Content including hate speech, swearing, pornography, and personal attacks may not be posted on the Library blog. This does not in any way indicate that blog entries will not be allowed because readers disagree with a person's opinion.
- **Defamation/Libel** – users should not publish any content that is unlawful, defamatory, or fraudulent. Note that an allegation of defamatory expression, in and of itself, does not establish defamation. The truth or falsehood of an expression is a key element in establishing defamation and we are not in a position to make that sort of fact based judgment. That said, if we have reason to believe that a particular statement is defamatory, we will remove the statement.

- Copyright – Using copyrighted material does not constitute infringement in all cases. In general, however, users should be careful when using copyrighted content without the permission of those who created it.
- Spam – We will aggressively seek to remove spam from our site. Generally, when we talk about spam, we mean content that is created for the primary purpose of manipulating search engine results or generating traffic through deceptive means.

**Response to Violations:**

Violations of the Blog Content Policy may result in loss of access to this service. Unlawful activities and misuse of the Library blog may result in loss to Blog and/or Library privileges and prosecution.

Approved by Library Board: 8/28/2007