

L550: Issues in Public Librarianship
Fall, 2005

Literature Review #1:

CIPA

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For some reason, the text of this assignment is not present in my files. I'll keep digging in my back-ups. For now: this annotated bibliography follows.

References

Commission on Online Child Protection (COPA). (2000). Recommendations. *Final*

Report of the COPA Commission. Retrieved September 12, 2005, from

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

Concludes that the most effective means of protecting children from harmful content on the Internet include public education regarding how to use the Internet, consumer empowerment, support for enforcement of existing laws, and “greater use of existing technologies”. Significantly, technologies (including but not limited to filtering software) come last on the list. Filtering software is regarded as currently unreliable for blocking undesired content while allowing access to useful content.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (1998). *Internet filtering systems*.

Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office. Retrieved September 11, 2005,

from [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=105_cong_reports&docid=f:sr226.105.pdf)

[dbname=105_cong_reports&docid=f:sr226.105.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=105_cong_reports&docid=f:sr226.105.pdf)

Written in support of Senate bill 1619, which directed the FCC to study Internet filtering software. Basing its initial arguments on anecdotal evidence from popular serials and newspapers rather than professional or legal literature, the report concludes that current internet filtering software, while imperfect, provides “reasonable means” to protect children from harmful material on the Internet (also citing prospects for future improvement in the software). Seeks to secure Internet protection for children using computers in school and public libraries (where their parents cannot always supervise them) by means of enforcement through federal aid to said schools and libraries. Stresses that S. 1619 is carefully designed to intrude as little as possible on local autonomy.

Goldstein, A. (2002). Like a sieve: CIPA and ineffective filters in libraries. *Fordham*

Intellectual Property, Media and Entertainment Law Journal, 12, 1187-1202.

Retrieved September 11, 2005, from

<http://bert.lib.indiana.edu:2054/universe/printdoc> (LexisNexis Academic accessed through Indiana University Libraries).

Reviews the literature to demonstrate the ways in which Internet filters fail to perform adequately, and analyzes legal implications of CIPA to show breach of the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution. Offers statistics demonstrating the disparate impact of the legislation on low-income families. Recommends library policies to comply with CIPA with least harm done.

Jaeger, P.T., Bertot, J.C., & McClure, C.R. (2004). The effects of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) in public libraries and its implications for research: A statistical, policy, and legal analysis. *The Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 55(13), 1131-1139. Retrieved September 11, 2005, from <http://bert.lib.indiana.edu:2185/cgi-bin/fulltext/109089142/PDFSTART> (Wiley Interscience, accessed through Indiana University Libraries).

Analyzes the nature of the Supreme Court's decision upholding CIPA, stressing the specificity of the ruling allowing for future challenges. Reviews literature on libraries and filters, and identifies questions for research regarding CIPA's potential affect on library service. Presents preliminary data on CIPA's public library impact, and suggests avenues for further research.

Jaeger, P.T., McClure, C.R., Bertot, J.C., & Langa, L.A. (2005). CIPA: Decisions, implementation, and impacts. *Public Libraries* 44(2), 105-109.

Examines the decision-making process for libraries to filter under CIPA, and the factors involved in implementation of filtering software. Profiles the potential affect of the filtering requirement on information needs of both adults and minors, as well as CIPA's disregard for local values. Recommends strategies for thoughtful CIPA compliance, as well as suggesting ongoing research questions. Includes helpful reference guide to online resources on filtering and CIPA.

Schneider, K. G. (1997). *A practical guide to Internet filters*. In *Neal-Schuman NetGuide Series*. New York: Neal-Schuman.

Summarizes the findings of a six-month study by The Internet Filter Assessment Project (TIFAP). Offers guidelines for the decision whether to filter and how to filter, with descriptions of the kinds of software currently available and examples of specific library experiences with them. Includes detailed reviews of thirteen different filtering products. An appendix provides the TIFAP sample questions. See <http://www.bluehighways.com> for the author's current projects.