

#### resources

[apple valley](#)

[burnsville](#)

[eagan](#)

[farmington](#)

[lakeville](#)

[prior lake](#)

[rosemount](#)

[savage](#)

[shakopee](#)

#### metro news

[faith & values](#)

[education](#)

[police/court  
news](#)

[lotteries](#)

[obituaries](#)

[traffic](#)

[gas prices](#)

[photos](#)

[live cam](#)

[news graphics](#)

#### archive

[stories](#)

[reprints](#)

[projects](#)

#### contact us

[st south](#)

[feedback](#)

[corrections](#)

Last update: June 8, 2004 at 12:03 PM

## Librarians face federal deadline

Shira Kantor, Star Tribune

June 9, 2004 SFIL0609

Adam Gurno vehemently opposes Internet filters on public computers.

As a public library patron, he's going to have to accept that they'll be there. As a Northfield Public Library Board member, he finds himself charged with helping to set policies governing their use.

South-of-the-river libraries and library board members are making decisions this month on installing filters that can prevent patrons from viewing obscene content on public computers.

The Children's Internet Protection Act requires public libraries to install some type of electronic filtering system by July 1 or lose federal reimbursement for telecommunications costs.

For many library systems, the question has come down to how much Internet content should be filtered, rather than whether to filter content at all.

The Scott County Board of Trustees approved filtering reluctantly, said county library director Vanessa Birdsey, and "only because the cost to the library system in lost funding would adversely affect [its] operations."

The Dakota County Library Board is set to consider filtering options at a meeting on Thursday.

The Northfield Library Board will meet this week to discuss details of a decision by its Internet provider to install a filtering program, Gurno said.

The Northfield Public Library is a member of a library cooperative, Southeastern Libraries Cooperating (SELCO), which provides services including telecommunications and Internet access.

Since SELCO decided it can't foot the roughly \$242,000 annual bill to serve its 35 member libraries, it is installing a content filter called Sonicwall, said director Ann Hutton.

Sonicwall can be set to block varying levels of Internet content. SELCO will block pornography and obscenity, Hutton said; local librarians and communities can decide how much more content they wish to block.

"The push to have them installed sort of ignores the collateral damage that occurs from putting these in," Gurno said. He said he understands the need to protect children from some sites, but he questioned the cost at which that protection would come.

Northfield Public Library recently installed a Spanish language computer station, he said. Gurno said he's not sure how the filtering requirement would impact that computer. "No one at SELCO or the Northfield Public Library knows if filters filter out Spanish language,"

#### Story tools

[Email this story](#)

[AIM this story](#)

[Print this story](#)

[Make us your homepage](#)

#### Search

[More options](#)

#### government

[Dakota County](#)

[Scott County](#)

[MN Legislature](#)

#### education

[District 191](#)

[District 192](#)

[District 194](#)

[District 196](#)

[District 197](#)

[District 719](#)

[District 720](#)

[School profiles](#)

#### sportshuddle

[stats, scores, standings](#)

[about sportshuddle](#)

#### movie theaters

[Apple Valley](#)

[Eagan](#)

[Rosemount](#)

[Lakeville](#)

[Shakopee](#)

#### food | events

[restaurants](#)

[search venues](#)

he said.

Gurno pushed to break away from SELCO as the Northfield library's Internet service provider, but the board voted the idea down because of the cost.

Lynn Young, director of the Northfield library, said she would prefer "to err on the side of trusting people. At the same time, it's a public place, we need to comply with public standards."

The law states that adults can have access to unfiltered content simply by asking for it. Critics suggest the stigma attached to such a request might deter people from asking.

State Rep. Ray Cox, R-Northfield, coauthored legislation that would require filters in schools and libraries. It passed the House, but not the Senate.

"We have a very free and open society here," he said, "and that very nature makes some of these things very difficult to deal with."

*Shira Kantor is at [skantor@startribune.com](mailto:skantor@startribune.com).*

---

#### Advertiser Links

---

#### Give Time By Volunteering

Help The Community You Live In. It's Easy, Become A Volunteer Today.  
[www.timebank.org.uk](http://www.timebank.org.uk)




---

#### Advance Humanity

Health, Education, Equality & Protection for Every Child.  
[www.UNICEFusa.org](http://www.UNICEFusa.org)

---

Ads by Google

		<p><b>FINDING THE CAR YOU WANT FEELS PRETTY GOOD.</b> FIND THE RIGHT CAR FOR YOU.™</p>	
---	---	--	---

[Return to top](#)