

SHOREWOOD LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

June 14, 2004

Members Present: Meg Anderson, Mary Ellen De Haven, Jean Gurney, Joe Krueger, Jeff Schmeckpeper, Jeff Hanewall

Others Present: Beth Carey, Director of Library Services

The Shorewood Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by President Meg Anderson in the Village Center.

Statement of Public Notice: Ms. Carey stated that the meeting had been posted and noticed according to law.

Announcements: none

Citizens to be Heard on Items Not on the Agenda: Ellen Greever, 3525 N. Cramer, indicated she had viewed the web site [www.shorewoodvillage.com](http://www.shorewoodvillage.com) and the library's selection policy and doesn't see the need to link from the library web site to this web site. Ms. Greever also stated disagreement with the charge for visitors to use the Internet.

Approval of Minutes: Jeff Schmeckpeper moved; Joe Krueger seconded approval of the minutes of the May 5, 2004 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Accounts Payable: Jeff Hanewall moved; Jeff Schmeckpeper seconded approval of the Accounts Payable report for June 2004, in the amount of \$18,311.70. Motion carried unanimously. The Board requested that a plan for the expenditure of the Weistrop gift be presented at the next meeting. The Board also requested that library staff pursue collection of email addresses to reduce postage costs.

Library Director's Report: A written report with May statistics was distributed. The new category of number of computer users was discussed; it was asked that the report include percentage of time in use. The disappearance of 18 DVDs was acknowledged and discussed. During discussion of reciprocal borrowing, the Board requested that a report be prepared examining resident use of other libraries.

Approval of Gifts: An undesignated gift of \$105.00 was received. Acceptance moved by Joe Krueger, seconded by Mary Ellen DeHaven. Motion carried unanimously.

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Union Negotiations Contract Approval: The Board reviewed additional information pertaining to wage increases and changes in health insurance costs. Approval of the Union contract was moved by Joe Krueger, seconded by Jeff Schmeckpeper. Motion carried unanimously.

Non-Represented Employee Wage Increase: Extend to non-represented employees the same wage and benefit adjustments moved by Jeff Schmeckpeper, seconded by Jeff Hanewall. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Room Policy: Director Carey proposed adding the following language to the Meeting Room policy: "Fundraising events are not allowed unless they are co-sponsored by the Library and the Village." This language was reviewed with Village Attorney Ray Pollen. Approval moved by Joe Krueger, seconded by Jeff Hanewall. It was requested that a general discussion of the meeting room use and staff time devoted to it be added to the next agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

2005 Budget Process: After discussion, Director Carey was asked to bring a draft to the next regular Library Board meeting.

MCFLS Update: At their June 14, 2004 meeting the MCFLS Board refused to further discuss including language related to reciprocal borrowing in the Member Agreement. The intend to deliver a Member Agreement in July that includes no language related to reciprocal borrowing. The Library Board agreed to forward a letter indicating support for including such language in a Member Agreement. Mr. Schmeckpeper and Ms. Carey will prepare a draft for review. It was also requested that Ms. Carey prepare a report on MCFLS services and costs.

Long Range Planning: A meeting will be scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on June 30 to further discuss this issue.

Election of Officers: Election of Meg Anderson as President was moved by Jeff Schmeckpeper, seconded by Jean Gurney. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m

The next scheduled regular meeting is Monday, July 12, 2004, in the Village Center, at 5:00 p.m.

Recorded by Beth Carey  
Director of Library Services

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## Beth Carey

**From:** Amy Krahn [Amy.Krahn@mcfls.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 23, 2004 4:29 PM  
**To:** Beth Carey  
**Subject:** Davidian's request

Not sure if you wanted my input, too, but here it is...

We do currently have a selection policy in place that clearly states that the selection of library materials is the responsibility of the librarians, as designated by the library director. In making those decisions, there are established selection criteria, such as accuracy of content, anticipated need/use, authority, etc.

If a patron requests a book or other resource be added to the collection, that request would be referred to the appropriate librarian for consideration. Mr. Davidian's request should go through the same procedure.

It is impossible for the library to have links to every website belonging to, or of interest to, Shorewood residents. Therefore, the librarians need to make decisions about which sites would be most appropriate.

If we allow Mr. Davidian to dictate which websites are linked to our library website, we would also have to purchase every book requested, every magazine subscription requested, every movie requested...Clearly, this is neither desirable nor feasible. He may argue that there is no cost involved, but that isn't accurate - you have to consider the cost of labor involved in adding and maintaining the link.

Personally, I think that we can accept his letter requesting the link, consider it, and respond accordingly. It is the same procedure that any other patron making a request would have to go through. We can thank him for his interest, but explain that his website does not meet the established selection criteria outlined in our collection development policy. If he doesn't agree with this decision, he would need to go to the library board.

Amy

Amy Krahn  
Librarian, Young Adult Services  
Shorewood Public Library  
3920 N. Murray Ave., Shorewood, WI 53211  
(414) 847-2685

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4/24/2004

## Beth Carey

**From:** Heide Piehler [Heide.Piehler@mcfls.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 23, 2004 4:24 PM  
**To:** beth.carey@mcfls.org  
**Subject:** website

I don't believe we should "take down" our website or add the link to shorewoodvillage.com. It would be wrong to hinder our patrons' easy access to information based on one threat.

The selection policy clearly states it is the librarians' discretion to choose materials for the library collection. Whatever the format, our decisions are based on user need, accuracy, authority of author, publisher, etc. and ~~popular demand~~.

The websites Mr. Davidian uses as examples are the sites of established Shorewood organizations or agencies. His website does not fall into that category. Many Shorewood residents and organizations have websites. We do not have links to every one of those sites.

We do not have links to other more well-established political and satirical publications such as Shepard Express or the Onion.

Our website was never meant to be an index or all-inclusive.

We do not block access to Mr. Davidian's website. Any one can easily find it through Google or other search engines.

Heide Piehler  
Youth Services Librarian  
Shorewood Public Library  
3920 N. Murray Ave., Shorewood WI 53211  
Ph. (414) 847-2681 <http://www.mcfls.org/shorewood>  
Fax (414) 847-2677  
[heide.piehler@mcfls.org](mailto:heide.piehler@mcfls.org)

## Beth Carey

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From: Bocher, Robert DPI [Robert.Bocher@dpi.state.wi.us]  
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2004 12:28 PM  
To: 'Beth.Carey@mcfls.org'  
Subject: RE: web site link



Supreme Court  
CIPA.pdf (747 KB...

Beth:

I've attached the complete CIPA ruling from SCOTUS. Note the following sections below on library authority and autonomy. Now CIPA was about Internet access but the Court made a direct analogy between a library's autonomy to make book selection decisions and its provision of Internet access. IMO, deciding what you link to is even more analogous than the provision on Internet access, so I think the Court's analogy is even more appropriate, although I am not an attorney....

In your case, I see your decisions on what you link to as being no different than if a patron demanded that you purchase a book he just authored. You have book selection policies and if the patron's book does not fall under your policy you are under no obligation to purchase it. As you noted on your April 25 WISPUBLIB post, you have Web link polices and have made a decision not to link.

Here are some selected quotes from the Court's CIPA case. I think the public forum issue (first p. 9 quote) is your strongest argument.

>>>>

p. 2 of Syllabus: The fact that a library reviews and affirmatively chooses to acquire every book in its collection, but does not review every Web site that it makes available, is not a constitutionally relevant distinction. The decisions by most libraries to exclude pornography from their print collections are not subjected to heightened scrutiny; it would make little sense to treat libraries' judgments to block online pornography any differently.

p. 6: To fulfill their traditional missions, public libraries must have broad discretion to decide what material to provide to their patrons.

p. 7: We have held in two analogous contexts that the government has broad discretion to make content-based judgments in deciding what private speech to make available to the public.

p. 9: A public library does not acquire Internet terminals in order to create a public forum for Web publishers to express themselves, any more than it collects books in order to provide a public forum for the authors of books to speak.

p. 9: As Congress recognized, "[t]he Internet is simply another method for making information available in a school or library." S. Rep. No. 106-141, p. 7 (1999). It is "no more than a technological extension of the book stack." Ibid.3 The District Court disagreed because, whereas a library reviews and affirmatively chooses to acquire every book in its collection, it does not review every Web site that it makes available. 201 F. Supp. 2d, at 462-463. Based on this distinction, the court reasoned that a public library enjoys less discretion in deciding which Internet materials to make available than in making book selections. We do not find this distinction constitutionally relevant.

~~p. 11: A library's need to exercise judgment in making collection decisions depends on its traditional role in identifying suitable and worth-while material; it is no less entitled to play that role when it collects material from the Internet than when it collects material from any other source.~~

>>>>>>>>>>

Lipinski

ALA v Ascroft

CIPA

written by Zehngquist.

up to library

- demand can't

self  
book

- cases on cybersripe sites  
not requirement that  
company link to site by

CIPA -

libraries internet access  
not a public forum

consistently applies

- content

dilution of  
trademarks

414 3846937

him linking to

students - teacher glide site  
linking to school site.

NEVER SETTLE A CASE

- not just don't like his  
viewpoint  
not consistent with policy  
permissible viewpoint.

— decision to add material  
CIPA rests w/  
unfettered  
patrons cannot  
tell librarians how

**Beth Carey**

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**From:** Tomas Lipinski [lipinski@sois.uwm.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2004 2:40 PM  
**To:** Beth.Carey@mcfls.org  
**Subject:** RE: web link issue

Hi Beth

Also there is later decision in that city web link case, The Putnam Pit, Inc. v. City of Cookeville, 31 Media Law Reporter 2201, 2003 WL 22000304 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir 2003) but no recommended for full text publication), in short, city policy said links needed to be for "promotion of economic welfare, commerce, tourism in the Cookeville area" jury concluded that a cyber-gripe cite would not meet that criteria so the question of viewpoint discrimination was never addressed by jury, on appeal the 6<sup>th</sup> circuit found no error in the jury's conclusion, so one Q would be whether your city has link criteria, your library site would be covered by the collection development policy, hope this helps further, tom

Tomas A. Lipinski, J.D., LL.M., Ph.D.  
Co-Director and Associate Professor  
Center for Information Policy Research  
School of Information Studies  
University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee  
P.O. Box 413  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA 53201  
414-229-4908, 414-229-4848 (fax)

When you own a big chunk of the bloody third  
world, the babies just come with the scenery  
--Chrissie Hynde

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**From:** Beth Carey [mailto: Beth.Carey@mcfls.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2004 1:23 PM  
**To:** tlipinsk@uwm.edu  
**Subject:** web link issue

Hi Tom – Thanks so much for speaking with me this morning. I appreciate your comments and interest in this issue. When I asked for opinions from the Wisconsin library community, through Wispublib, the response was universal – it would be dangerous for an individual to be able to insist that a library link to their site.

I will keep you informed as this progresses.

Beth Carey

Beth Carey, Director of Library Services  
Shorewood Public Library  
3920 N. Murray Ave., Shorewood, WI 53211  
Ph. 414-847-2676 <http://www.mcfls.org/shorewood>



2250480

Apr  
1962

Mike Cross 5-11-04

- bulletin board - community service current events
- links are information sources
- public archives, web4lib ↓  
more analogous to collection
- deciding not to select a book matter of professional judgment based on LB policy.
- Office of Intellectual Freedom
- case on not selecting a book.
- sec 43.58 sub 3  
bring claim to LB  
see municipality
- policy has been to treat
- mission is not to provide a voice or forum for everyone in the community

— purpose of collection  
mission of web site  
purpose of web site

TO: Beth Carey  
FROM: Amy Krahn  
RE: Davidian's request

First, I think it is a mistake to treat his request any differently than we would a request to purchase a book or magazine made by any other patron. He is suggesting that we are refusing him because of who he is, not the content. Therefore, I suggest that we do what he asks – treat him the same as anyone else, regardless of his history or his threats. Instead of following a procedure that he is trying to force on us, we should make him go through the established procedures for reconsideration of materials.

When any other patron requests that something be added to the collection, their request is referred to the librarian in charge of selection for that part of the collection. For example, a request for adult fiction goes to Nancy, who then looks at reviews, whether or not other libraries in the system own the collection, whether or not it is a title that is likely to be popular with patrons, whether or not it has literary significance (i.e. Pulitzer prize, etc.). As another example, we had the recent request for the Indian newspaper. Since that isn't any one librarian's responsibility, we discussed it at a librarian's meeting and looked at things like whether or not there was an audience for the paper and whether there was room in the budget. So, Davidian's request should have been directed to Pete, who would make a determination as to whether or not the website in question meets the criteria for the purpose and goals of our website. If Davidian objected, he should have been asked to fill out the request for reconsideration and gone thru that process. Part of the problem here is that Davidian seems to think that he deserves special consideration and that his request should go straight to the director or the library board. He can't have it both ways – either he is treated like everyone else, or he isn't.

Another big issue here is how his website should be evaluated: Do we look at the original content of the website (that is, the content that is written and produced by Davidian himself), or the value of the links within his website? This is where the authority of the author/editor/sponsor comes in to play. Even if this were simply an index of websites, you would need to look at the individual/organization producing the index. Do they have a strong reputation in the field, a long history or previous works that have been deemed reliable and accurate? Do they have special expertise? Do they have strong local or popular appeal? Even as a creator of a simple index, he does not meet these criteria. There are no reviews or endorsements from credible and authoritative sources. We have not found that other public sites are providing links to his website (unless forced to by legal action). ~~We have had no requests from patrons,~~ nor do we anticipate that there would be. We do not offer links to other sites of this nature. If we did decide to add links to websites featuring political satire/analysis, there are other, more reliable and credible sites that would be preferable.

~~All that said, I think that we should not be considering his site on the basis that it is an index of websites, but rather on the original content produced by Davidian. Part of the reasoning for this is that much of the information that he provides links to is information that is available to the librarians and the patrons from the primary sources, (i.e. the financial statements from the campaigns for village trustee – which Davidian obtained from the library) Other information that he provides simply does not fit our stated goals and purposes.~~

links  
to  
docs  
w/ P  
D/E

So, if we apply the selection criteria to the original content of the website, it is clear that it does not meet the standards that we have determined. The following comments are based on the general criteria for selection as listed in the materials selection policy (1997).

1. Complementary value to the existing collection: One could argue that the viewpoints expressed on his website and some of the information provided do have complementary value. However, this is somewhat negated by the fact that the author is not an established and recognized source.
2. Social significance and timeliness of subject matter: His comments do not appear to have any more social significance to the community than the opinions expressed on a weekly basis in the Shorewood Herald.
3. Quality of writing...: I've read a few of the articles on his website and have found numerous grammatical errors, typos, and some questionable language. Popular appeal? We have no way of knowing how many hits his site gets, but we do know that we have had no requests for information about it.
  - a. Special consideration for local author: Again, he is not a recognized or reviewed local author or expert.
4. Physical format, appearance, and durability: This website has the appearance of a tabloid newspaper, which does not fit in with our collection. There is also a question about durability – we know that Davidian made a recent attempt to make his website available by subscription only. As this is an individual's personally owned and funded website, we have no reasonable guarantee that it will continue in its current format.
5. Authoritativeness – We have all seen questionable and inaccurate information included on this website. While he does provide links to some information, there is not sufficient evidence and documentation for large portions of his articles.
6. Reputation and significance of author...: Again, this has already been addressed, but merits mentioning again. Davidian has no more authority, expertise or significance as a creator of this website than any other resident who may have a personal website. His site has not received any awards, is not endorsed or sponsored by any reputable organizations, and is not reviewed in any professional journals that we use. Although we have no statistics on how many other public websites provide links to his website, we know of no other local public website that does.
7. Reputation of publisher/producer: Same as above.
8. Availability of work through other library source: As mentioned, some of the information he links to is available through other sources – in fact, through the primary sources. For the original content, any resident can log on to one of our internet computers and access his site without restriction (with the possible exception of the children's computers, which are filtered).
9. Cost, space, and budget considerations: This is really only applicable in those instances when we deem that the item belongs in the collection, and then the cost is considered against other sources. Just because something is free doesn't mean it should be added to the collection. For example, donations to the library are also required to be evaluated by the appropriate librarian to determine if they should be added to the library's collection.

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Finally, I think it is important to address Davidian's concern that you (or any of the librarians) have "unfettered" discretion. You, and subsequently we, have been given this responsibility for selection of materials by the Library Board, which is the governing authority. Therefore, it is not unfettered – it is constrained by the criteria outlined above,

which were established and approved by the Library Board. In addition, I think it is very important to stress that librarians are professionals with advanced degrees and that we have training and experience in the collection development. This experience, education and training is what enables us to exercise our responsibilities and duties and to use our professional discretion in making these decisions.

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**Beth Carey**

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**From:** Skowronek Family [skowronek@milwpc.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2004 9:44 PM  
**To:** Beth.Carey@mcfls.org  
**Subject:** Re: web site link

Dear Beth,

I am a graduate student at UW Milwaukee, we discussed your problem in my "Management of Library Collections" class tonight. My professor, Kate Johnson, suggested that you treat the website link as if it were a gift. Many of my classmates agree that this is a good idea. Good luck.

Dolores Skowronek

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Beth Carey  
**To:** Wispublib  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 25, 2004 3:43 PM  
**Subject:** web site link

Please help – We have an individual who has asked that we link to his web site from the library's site. His site is has been characterized by the local paper as 'satirical' and is critical of local officials. We believe the links we currently have fit our selection policy and are helpful to librarians during reference work. Staff does not feel his site meets these criteria. Have any of you dealt with a request to link to someone's site?? Anyone know of any legal issues here that have been dealt with at other libraries? My initial thought is to treat it like a request for reconsideration and follow that procedure..... If anyone has advice I would greatly appreciate it asap – this will not go away ..

Thanks,  
Beth

Beth Carey, Director of Library Services  
Shorewood Public Library  
3920 N. Murray Ave., Shorewood, WI 53211  
Ph. 414-847-2676 <http://www.mcfls.org/shorewood>

**Beth Carey**

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**From:** John DeBacher [jdebox@scls.lib.wi.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2004 10:17 AM  
**To:** Beth.Carey@mcfls.org  
**Subject:** RE: web site link

I agree with your approach. This is very much like the special interest groups who want to "donate" materials to the library to push their own agendas. That's part of the reason we have collection policies. If you add a site without qualifying and justifying its inclusion, you open yourself up to having to include any site that anyone wants included.

On the other hand, if his site is for a local organization with membership, a board, some kind of incorporated status, etc., he might have a valid request if you have a place where you include local groups. But if he's just a hot-head on a mission, I would simply outline your reasons for not including the link, refer to your selection policy, and hope he drops it. If he decides to take action, I think you are well protected.

--John DeBacher, Monona

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**From:** owner-wispublib@badger.state.wi.us [mailto:owner-wispublib@badger.state.wi.us] **On Behalf Of** Beth Carey  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 25, 2004 3:43 PM  
**To:** Wispublib  
**Subject:** web site link

Please help – We have an individual who has asked that we link to his web site from the library's site. His site is has been characterized by the local paper as 'satirical' and is critical of local officials. We believe the links we currently have fit our selection policy and are helpful to librarians during reference work. Staff does not feel his site meets these criteria. Have any of you dealt with a request to link to someone's site?? Anyone know of any legal issues here that have been dealt with at other libraries? My initial thought is to treat it like a request for reconsideration and follow that procedure..... If anyone has advice I would greatly appreciate it asap – this will not go away ..

Thanks,  
Beth

Beth Carey, Director of Library Services  
Shorewood Public Library  
3920 N. Murray Ave., Shorewood, WI 53211  
Ph. 414-847-2676 <http://www.mcfls.org/shorewood>

**Beth Carey**

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**From:** Eric Norton [enorton@scls.lib.wi.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2004 9:35 AM  
**To:** Beth.Carey@mcfls.org  
**Subject:** Re: web site link

Beth:

If you are going to follow any procedure at all, rather than just tell the fellow, "Thanks, but library staff determine what will appear on and be linked to by our website," then I would recommend following an acquisitions procedure or simply the procedure you used when you added all of your other links. If his website does not provide information or entertainment that you deem would be appreciated by your patrons, don't add the link. If you use a reconsideration procedure, that suggests that you already do link to his site, which doesn't seem like the case. Good luck.

Eric Norton  
Head of Children's Services  
McMillan Memorial Library  
Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494  
715-422-5130  
enorton@scls.lib.wi.us

"Very senior librarians...once they have proved themselves worthy by performing some valiant act of librarianship, are accepted into a secret order and are taught the raw arts of survival beyond the Shelves We Know."

Terry Pratchett, Guards! Guards!



**Beth Carey**

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**From:** Huntington, Barbara DPI [Barbara.Huntington@dpi.state.wi.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2004 8:57 AM  
**To:** 'Beth.Carey@mcfls.org'  
**Subject:** RE: web site link

I haven't been involved with a library web site, but I get frequent requests from businesses wanting links to their sites from the Collaborative Summer Library Program web site. I explain the purpose of the page and that the links are selected by committee. I offer to look at the site and if it seems appropriate to refer it to the committee that selects the sites.

I think in your situation it would be helpful to have a small committee to review the links, maybe a board member or two and the person who maintains the web page for you. Try to focus on why you have a page at all and then why the particular types of links are there. It might help to even write down the types of links that are currently on your site and the reason those sites were selected, including if possible the source that recommended them. I imagine you take the links from recommended sources--links for which you see reviews. Within that context the issue is similar to a selection procedure. You can build in a request to review the appropriateness of a site as you mention, just as you do for a book.

Once you have the procedures in place, you can more easily handle these requests. It amounts to somewhat a similar situation in terms of someone self publishing and then asking the library to put their book in the collection. If the book, or in this case the site, doesn't meet your criteria, and you have a committee in place, you can do a review and justify the answer rather easily. You can modify your Request for Reconsideration form to include web page links, or make up a new one. It might be good to have a written selection policy for the links just as you do for books and media. Give that to the person making a request to add their site, just so they understand why some links and not others are included.

This is just my summary of what we are going to do with CSLP as an organization. I don't know if it is helpful in your situation or not. I'd be interested in knowing if you get any interesting responses to your posting. Thanks.

Barbara Huntington  
Youth and Special Services Consultant  
Division for Libraries, Technology, and  
Community Learning  
Department of Public Instruction  
125 South Webster Street, P.O. Box 7841  
Madison, WI 53707-7841  
608-267-5077(voice/TTY)  
barbara.huntington@dpi.state.wi.us

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Beth Carey [mailto: Beth.Carey@mcfls.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 25, 2004 3:43 PM  
**To:** Wispublib  
**Subject:** web site link

Please help - We have an individual who has asked that we link to his web site from the library's site. His site is has been characterized by the local paper as 'satirical' and is critical of local officials. We believe the links we currently have fit our selection policy and are helpful to librarians during reference work. Staff does not feel his site meets these criteria. Have any of you dealt with a request to link to someone's site?? Anyone know of any legal issues here that have been dealt with at other libraries? My initial thought is to treat it like a request for reconsideration and follow that procedure..... If anyone has advice I would greatly appreciate it asap - this will not go away ..

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Beth

Beth Carey, Director of Library Services  
Shorewood Public Library  
3920 N. Murray Ave., Shorewood, WI 53211  
Ph. 414-847-2676 <http://www.mcfls.org/shorewood>

**Beth Carey**

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**From:** Ken Hall [Hall@fdlpl.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2004 8:53 AM  
**To:** 'Beth.Carey@mcfls.org'  
**Subject:** RE: web site link

Hi Beth,

We had a request from a business person that we put a link on his site to from ours because it contained local information. Some of the information was history, etc., but most of it was paid advertising. The other information was easily obtainable from other sources, some of it on our own web site. We denied access based on our existing web policy (attached). He never pursued this to the Board, however I had given them a heads up incase he might. They were on my side.

Ken

Ken Hall, Director  
Fond du Lac Public Library  
32 Sheboygan Street  
Fond du Lac WI 54935  
920-929-7080 ext. 133

-----Original Message-----

**From:** owner-wispublib@badger.state.wi.us [mailto:owner-wispublib@badger.state.wi.us] **On Behalf Of** Beth Carey  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 25, 2004 3:43 PM  
**To:** Wispublib  
**Subject:** web site link

Please help - We have an individual who has asked that we link to his web site from the library's site. His site is has been characterized by the local paper as 'satirical' and is critical of local officials. We believe the links we currently have fit our selection policy and are helpful to librarians during reference work. Staff does not feel his site meets these criteria. Have any of you dealt with a request to link to someone's site?? Anyone know of any legal issues here that have been dealt with at other libraries? My initial thought is to treat it like a request for reconsideration and follow that procedure..... If anyone has advice I would greatly appreciate it asap - this will not go away ..

Thanks,  
Beth

Beth Carey, Director of Library Services  
Shorewood Public Library  
3920 N. Murray Ave., Shorewood, WI 53211  
Ph. 414-847-2676 <http://www.mcfls.org/shorewood>

**Beth Carey**

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**From:** Robert Hafeman [rhafeman@esls.lib.wi.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2004 9:26 AM  
**To:** Beth.Carey@mcfls.org  
**Subject:** RE: web site link

Hi Beth,

I have dealt with more than a few quirky requests, but this one is a doozy. I suppose that the first place I would look is at the library's mission statement. If there is no mention of providing linkage to Websites there, you are probably very safe. Treating it as a request for reconsideration should be "a request by the patron." If in fact that has happened, then resort to your mission statement.

Libraries strive to be equitable, but realistic. Consider whether it would be realistic to link to every patron's Website. If you cannot satisfy that litmus test, would you not be showing preferential treatment to one patron?

Hope this helps.

Best regards,

Robert E. Hafeman

-----Original Message-----

**From:** owner-wispublib@badger.state.wi.us [mailto:owner-wispublib@badger.state.wi.us] **On Behalf Of** Beth Carey  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 25, 2004 3:43 PM  
**To:** Wispublib  
**Subject:** web site link

Please help – We have an individual who has asked that we link to his web site from the library's site. His site is has been characterized by the local paper as 'satirical' and is critical of local officials. We believe the links we currently have fit our selection policy and are helpful to librarians during reference work. Staff does not feel his site meets these criteria. Have any of you dealt with a request to link to someone's site?? Anyone know of any legal issues here that have been dealt with at other libraries? My initial thought is to treat it like a request for reconsideration and follow that procedure..... If anyone has advice I would greatly appreciate it asap – this will not go away ..

Thanks,  
Beth

Beth Carey, Director of Library Services  
Shorewood Public Library  
3920 N. Murray Ave., Shorewood, WI 53211  
Ph. 414-847-2676 <http://www.mcfls.org/shorewood>

**Beth Carey**

---

**From:** Bernie Bellin [bbellin@lakeshores.lib.wi.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2004 8:14 AM  
**To:** Beth.Carey@mcfls.org  
**Subject:** Re: web site link

Beth,

We have had this request also.

We told them we don't allow it. Several of them questioned it and I said "It's our web site (go away)".

Have not had requests for several months now.

later. bb

At 03:43 PM 4/25/2004 -0500, you wrote:

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Bernie Bellin, System Administrator  
Lakeshores Library System  
106 W. Main Street  
Waterford, WI 53185

1/10/2005

**Beth Carey**

---

**From:** Heather Eldred [heldred@wvls.lib.wi.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2004 8:10 AM  
**To:** Beth.Carey@mcfls.org  
**Subject:** Re: web site link

Beth,

At the system level we have received a few requests to link to our site. Our board has so far said that whether or not to link is a decision made by the system director....h-m-m-m Not too scientific but it's working for now.

Please share any responses you receive from others. I think we could all use a good, defensible policy.

Thanks for trying.

Heather

Heather Eldred, Director  
 WI Valley Library Service  
 300 N First Street  
 Wausau WI 54401  
 715-261-7251  
<http://wvls.lib.wi.us>  
[heldred@wvls.lib.wi.us](mailto:heldred@wvls.lib.wi.us)

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Beth Carey  
**To:** Wispublib  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 25, 2004 3:43 PM  
**Subject:** web site link

Please help – We have an individual who has asked that we link to his web site from the library's site. His site is has been characterized by the local paper as 'satirical' and is critical of local officials. We believe the links we currently have fit our selection policy and are helpful to librarians during reference work. Staff does not feel his site meets these criteria. Have any of you dealt with a request to link to someone's site?? Anyone know of any legal issues here that have been dealt with at other libraries? My initial thought is to treat it like a request for reconsideration and follow that procedure..... If anyone has advice I would greatly appreciate it asap – this will not go away ..

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**Beth Carey**

**From:** Mark Arend [Arend@mail.winnefox.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2004 7:40 AM  
**To:** 'Beth.Carey@mcfls.org'  
**Subject:** RE: web site link

How about a list of 'local links' for community organizations, businesses, etc?

-----  
 Mark W. Arend, Interim Assistant Director  
 Winnefox Library System  
 106 Washington Ave.  
 Oshkosh, WI 54901  
 (920) 236-5222 fax: (920) 236-5228

<mailto:arend@mail.winnefox.org>

<http://www.winnefox.org/>

"A popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy."

-- James Madison

-----Original Message-----

**From:** owner-wispublib@badger.state.wi.us [mailto:owner-wispublib@badger.state.wi.us] **On Behalf Of** Beth Carey  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 25, 2004 3:43 PM  
**To:** Wispublib  
**Subject:** web site link

Please help - We have an individual who has asked that we link to his web site from the library's site. His site is has been characterized by the local paper as 'satirical' and is critical of local officials. We believe the links we currently have fit our selection policy and are helpful to librarians during reference work. Staff does not feel his site meets these criteria. Have any of you dealt with a request to link to someone's site?? Anyone know of any legal issues here that have been dealt with at other libraries? My initial thought is to treat it like a request for reconsideration and follow that procedure..... If anyone has advice I would greatly appreciate it asap - this will not go away ..

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