Brookline Public Library
SOCIAL SOFTWARE POLICY

The Brookline Public Library uses various online social software services to provide public forums for sharing ideas, opinions, and information about library-related subjects and issues. These forums are intended to create welcoming and inviting online spaces where library users can interact with library staff and other library users while finding useful and entertaining information related to the library's activities and resources. The Brookline Public Library regards online social software in the same way as its other information resources in accordance with its mission of serving as a primary resource for community information needs.

Definition of online social software

Online social software is defined as any website or application which allows users to share information. Social software can include, but is not limited to, blogging, instant messaging, social networking sites (e.g., Facebook, Pinterest, Linkedin, Twitter), posts to community reviews, and patron ratings of library materials via the library's website or online catalog.

Parental Controls and Privacy

As with more traditional resources and the Internet, the Library does not act in place of, or in the absence of, a parent/ guardian and is not responsible for enforcing any restrictions which a parent/ guardian may place on a minor's use of social software applications.

The Library does not collect, maintain, or otherwise use the personal information stored on any third party site in any way other than to communicate library-related information with users on that site, unless granted permission by users for Library contact outside of that specific site. Users may remove themselves at any time from the Library's friends, fans, or follower's lists, or request that the Library remove them. Users should be aware that third party websites have their own privacy policies and should proceed accordingly.

Users are encouraged to protect their privacy by not posting personally identifying information, such as last name, school, age, phone number, or address. Privacy protection resources are available on the Brookline Public Library website.

Commenting

Comments, posts, and messages are welcome on the Brookline Public Library social networking sites. While the Library recognizes and respects differences in opinion, all such interactions will be regularly monitored for content and relevancy (before publishing when possible). Brookline Public Library reserves the right to modify or remove messages or postings that it deems to be abusive, defamatory, in violation of the copyright, trademark right, or other intellectual property right of any third party, or otherwise inappropriate for the service. The Brookline Public Library further reserves the right to remove posts which contain any of the following:

Obscene or racist content
       Personal attacks, insults, or threatening language
       Potentially libelous statements
       Plagiarized or copyrighted material
       Private personal information published without consent of individual
       Comments unrelated to the library, its mission, or its activities
       Hyperlinks to materials that are not directly related to the discussion topic
       Commercial promotions or spam
       Organized political activity
       Photos or other images unrelated to the library, its mission, or its activities

All comments are public records.

By posting content, the user agrees to indemnify Brookline Public Library and its officers and employees from and against all liabilities, judgments, damages and costs (including attorney's fees) incurred by any of them which arise out of or are related to the posted content.

Liability and Participation
The Brookline Public Library assumes no liability regarding any event or interaction that takes place by any participant in any Library-sponsored social networking service, and does not endorse content outside of the pages maintained by the Library and the posts created by Brookline Public Library staff. Participation in Brookline Public Library social networking services implies agreement with all Library policies and the Terms of Service for each individual third-party service.

Ongoing Use Evaluation
The role and utility of social networking services in relation to the goals and purposes of the Library will be evaluated periodically by the Library's staff and board of trustees, and may be terminated at any time without notice to subscribers.

Approved by the Brookline Library Board of Trustees on 3/9/2015.