

The Honorable Edward F. Shea

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SPOKANE

13	SARAH BRADBURN, PEARL)	
14	CHERRINGTON, CHARLES)	
15	HEINLEN, and THE SECOND)	NO. CV-06-327-EFS
16	AMENDMENT FOUNDATION,)	
17	Plaintiffs,)	DEFENDANT NORTH CENTRAL
18	v.)	LIBRARY DISTRICT'S REPLY IN
19)	SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR
20	NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL)	SUMMARY JUDGMENT
21	LIBRARY DISTRICT,)	
22	Defendant.)	
23)	

DEFENDANT NORTH CENTRAL
LIBRARY DISTRICT'S REPLY IN
SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR
SUMMARY JUDGMENT - 1

CV-06-327-EFS
#661 488 v1 / 42703-001

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1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

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3 Plaintiffs' demand that NCRL provide unfiltered internet access upon the
4 request of an adult patron essentially asks NCRL to abdicate its traditional role
5 and responsibility for collection development. Moreover, if allowed, Plaintiffs'
6 demand would facilitate access to forms of expression which may not be
7 constitutionally-protected, which may jeopardize the interests of patrons and
8 staff, and which may compromise NCRL's ability to comply with CIPA. As it
9 relates to internet filtering, NCRL's policy is rationally-related to meet
10 substantial interests and thus complies with the free speech provisions of the
11 state and federal Constitutions.
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16 **II. ARGUMENT**

17 *A. Plaintiffs Opposition Contravenes the Local Rules.*

18 LR 10.1(a)(2) requires pleadings, including footnotes, to be double-
19 spaced and presented in 14 point type. Plaintiffs ignore these rules. Properly
20 formatted, Plaintiffs' brief would exceed the page limit established in LR 7.1(f).
21

22 *B. Plaintiffs Bradburn, Cherrington, and SAF Lack Standing.*

23
24 The "irreducible constitutional minimum" of standing requires that a
25 plaintiff show injury in fact, causation, and redressability. *Lujan v. Defenders of*
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1 *Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 560 (1992). A plaintiff’s showing of “injury in fact”
2 requires evidence of “an invasion of a legally-protected interest which is
3 concrete and particularized and actual or imminent, not conjectural or
4 hypothetical. *Id.* A plaintiff “must demonstrate standing for each claim he
5 seeks to press.” *DaimlerChrysler Corp v. Cuno*, 547 U.S. 332 (2006).
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8 Plaintiffs argue that the inability of Bradburn or Cherrington to identify
9 specific sites they claim were blocked, or SAF’s inability to state by its own
10 knowledge that one of its sites was blocked, may be overlooked because
11 Plaintiff Heinlen has standing. Plaintiffs contend that proper standing by any of
12 them provides standing for all. (Ct. Rec. 53, pg. 1-2). Plaintiffs are mistaken.
13 The cases they rely upon are unlike this case where Plaintiffs Bradburn,
14 Cherrington, and SAF have lacked standing from the inception of the lawsuit.
15 Allowing parties to maintain claims, ostensibly based on facts unique to them,
16 simply because a co-party has a stronger claim of standing may address
17 justiciability concerns but would fundamentally alter standing doctrine as it
18 presently exists. Cf. *DaimlerChrysler Corp, supra.*, (allowing standing for all
19 claims arising from same nucleus of operative facts would have “remarkable
20 implications.”)
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1 Plaintiff Bradburn claims she was denied access to web sites dealing with
2 teen smoking. Bradburn, however, is unable to identify specific sites. In fact,
3 she cannot say with certainty that she was denied access due to internet filtering
4 as opposed to a transient technical problem with the network. (NCRL
5 Statement, ¶¶123-26; 130-35). Bradburn’s allegation is insufficient to create a
6 genuine issue of material fact. In the absence of evidence substantiating “injury
7 in fact,” Bradburn lacks standing and her as applied challenge must be
8 dismissed. Similarly, Plaintiff Cherrington claims she was denied access to
9 one or more art gallery sites but cannot identify them. Without specific
10 information, NCRL has no ability to test her contention or even verify that what
11 she claims she could not access was constitutionally-protected speech. Based on
12 the evidence presented, Cherrington cannot demonstrate the “injury in fact”
13 necessary to establish standing.
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19 Cherrington does claim she was denied access to youtube.com and this
20 site was blocked for a period of time due to NCRL’s concern that some video
21 content contained disruptive or illegal speech. NCRL decided to unblock the
22 site after reassessing the site’s Terms of Use policy and its commitment to
23 enforcing it, including the sites prohibition on the display of pornography and
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1 sexually explicit behavior. Since youtube.com is now unblocked, Cherrington's
2 prior inability to access the site has been remedied.
3

4 Plaintiffs argue that NCRL could decide in the future to block
5 youtube.com or other sites again. (Ct. Rec. 53, p. 4), citing *Mainstream Loudon*
6 *v. Bd. of Trust. of Loudoun County Library*, 24 F. Supp 2d 552, 559 (E.D. Va
7 1998). A generalized concern that NCRL might block a web site in the future is
8 conjecture and sufficiently concrete to confer standing. Moreover, what is and
9 is not filtered by a public library is a matter of collection development, an area
10 where public libraries have broad discretion. Moreover, *Loudon*'s decision to
11 find that web publishers had standing is questionable in light of *United States v.*
12 *American Library Ass'n.*, 539 U.S. 194 (2003) ("ALA"). In *ALA*, a plurality of
13 the Court concluded that a library's decision to use an internet filter is a
14 collection development decision and rejected the characterization of a library as
15 a public forum. 539 U.S. at 205. The Court elaborated on a library's purpose in
16 providing internet access to its patrons:
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22 A public library does not acquire Internet terminals in
23 order to create a public forum for Web publishers to
24 express themselves, any more than it collects books in
25 order to provide a public forum for the author of books
26 to speak.... It provides Internet access, not to

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1 'encourage a diversity of views from private speakers,
2 ... but for the same reasons it offers other library
3 resources: to facilitate research, learning, and
4 recreational pursuits by furnishing materials of
5 requisite and appropriate quality....' As Congress
6 recognized, 'the Internet is simply another method for
7 making information available in a school or library.'...
8 It is 'no more than a technological extension of the
9 book stack.'"

10 539 U.S. at 206-07 (citations omitted).

11 Plaintiffs Cherrington, Bradburn, and SAF have not offered evidence
12 sufficient to establish or create a genuine issue of material fact as to their
13 standing to challenge NCRL's Policy on constitutional grounds and Loudon
14 offers them no support. Accordingly, their "as applied" challenges to NCRL's
15 Policy concerning internet filtering should be dismissed.

16 *C. NCRL's filtering policy is not overbroad.*

17 Plaintiffs contend NCRL's Internet Usage policy is overbroad because it
18 limits adults to reading only what is fit for children and blocks access to a
19 substantial amount of protected speech. (Ct. Rec 53, p. 7-11). The evidence
20 does not support this contention. Internet filtering occurs pursuant to NCRL's
21 Internet Use Policy which, in turn, incorporates NCRL's Collection
22 Development Policy. In addition to carrying out collection development
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1 functions, internet filtering enables NCRL to comply with CIPA, provide a safe
2 and non-hostile environment for patrons and staff, and otherwise advance
3 NCRL's mission to promoted reading and life long learning.
4

5 Plaintiffs' exaggerate the extent of filtering that occurs pursuant to
6 NCRL's Policy. Of the 76 categories FortiGuard uses to classify web sites,
7 NCRL chooses to block only these: hacking, proxy avoidance, phishing,
8 malware, spyware, web chat and instant messaging, gambling, image search and
9 video search, adult materials, nudity/risque and pornography. To suggest that
10 the vast and varied universe of web content available beyond these categories is
11 suitable only for children is not plausible. (See, e.g., Ct. Rec 33, Ex. B).
12 Moreover, a particular site falling within a blocked category can be brought
13 easily (by automated process) to the attention of NCRL or Fortiguard with a
14 request that the filter be overridden or the site re-classified.
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19 Plaintiffs argue that some categories blocked by NCRL "plainly extend to
20 constitutionally protected material that is not obscene, is not child pornography
21 and is not harmful to minors as defined by CIPA." (Ct. Rec. 53, p 7). This is
22 possible, but the point does not help Plaintiffs. A library patron cannot expect
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1 access to a resource simply because it is constitutionally-protected. As the
2 Court observed in *ALA*:

3
4 [A] public library does not have an obligation to add
5 material to its collection simply because the material is
6 constitutionally-protected.

7 539 U.S. at 209 n.4.

8 In fact, NCRL provides its patrons with a broad array of resources
9 through books and other traditional forms as well as web-based and multi-media
10 formats. What is unavailable through one channel (e.g., photographs through
11 Google Images) may well be available through traditional media or one of
12 several image databases made available through www.ncrl.org. Plaintiffs give
13 NCRL little credit for the alternatives it has devised for its patrons.
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16 Plaintiffs' complain specifically that NCRL blocks "all sites about
17 gambling, whether or not they facilitate illegal transactions." (Ct. Rec 58, pg 9.)
18 Again, Plaintiffs overstate their case. NCRL has unblocked several casino
19 related sites upon request. NCRL declined to unblock freelotto.com, which
20 hosts gambling, but allowed access to oregonlotto.com. (Ct. Rec. 57). Plaintiffs
21 also argue the filter "blocks fine art that happens to feature nudity." (Ct. Rec 53,
22 p. 8). Plaintiffs offer as examples aretenuda.com/paintings2.asp,
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1 fineartnude.com/webring, and others. Plaintiff Heinlen discusses other sites
2 such as netnude.com, part of which (www.netnude.com/gallery) offers freely
3 accessible photos of individuals and couples displaying frontal nudity. NCRL
4 recognizes that some content on these sites and other sites may be
5 constitutionally-protected expression. That does not mean the content must be
6 included in NCRL's collection. NCRL's role as a public library carries with it
7 the right and responsibility to make content-based judgments about what to
8 include in the collection. Plaintiffs cannot substitute their judgment for that of
9 NCRL. Plaintiffs do not suggest a systemic imbalance in NCRL's collection of
10 which web content is just one part. Although they may wish to have the
11 freedom to travel to every corner of the world wide web nothing in the First
12 Amendment or Art I, § 5 requires NCRL to suspend its own duties and indulge
13 their subjective preferences. Ultimately, internet filtering is a form of collection
14 development, an area where NCRL has broad discretion. See *ALA*, 539 U.S. at
15 205 ("Public library staffs necessarily consider content in making collection
16 decisions and enjoy broad discretion in making them.").

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1 D. *Plaintiffs exaggerate the filter's tendency to overblock.*

2 Plaintiffs claim that, "NCRL does not genuinely dispute the volume of
3 Websites that it prevents it patrons from viewing." (Ct . Rec. 53, pg. 9-11).
4 NCRL does dispute this. NCRL agrees that no known internet filter operates
5 without error but perfect filtering is not the standard. The *ALA* plurality
6 observed:
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9 Assuming that such erroneous blocking presents
10 constitutional difficulties, any such concerns are
11 dispelled by the ease with which patrons may have the
12 filtering software disabled. When a patron encounters
13 a blocked site, he need only ask a librarian to unblock
14 it or (at least I the case of adults) disable the filter. As
15 the District Court found, libraries have the capacity to
16 permanently unblock any erroneously blocked site.

16 539 U.S. at 209.

17 To the extent overblocking raises a constitutional issue, *ALA* allows
18 libraries to deal with it either of two ways: unblock the erroneously blocked site
19 or disable the filter all together. Here, NCRL patrons are able to seek an
20 override from NCRL staff or a reclassification from FortiGuard. The *ALA*
21 plurality and concurring opinions do not require NCRL to do more.
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1 The extent of overblocking that occurs with FortiGuard, as applied and
2 configured on the NCRL network, is not substantial. Professor Paul Resnick
3 reviewed data reflecting actual internet use by NCRL patrons during the period
4 August 23-29, 2007, rather than assess FortiGuard's effectiveness based upon a
5 random sample of domain names in order to better determine the impact of
6 filtering on NCRL patrons. Professor Resnick found that 20 complete web
7 pages were erroneously blocked out of more than 60,000 complete page
8 requests. Plaintiffs argue that Professor Resnick concluded "20 entire web sites"
9 were wrongly blocked. (Ct. Rec 53, p. 10). This is incorrect. Depending on the
10 design of the site, access may have permitted to other pages of the site or pages
11 within a site may have been properly blocked according to NCRL's policy.
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17 Plaintiffs also extrapolate Professor Resnick's findings from one week to
18 one full year (Ct. Rec. 53, pg. 10) and argue that the number of erroneous blocks
19 will increase dramatically. While the number of page requests obviously
20 increases as the study period lengthens, there is no basis to speculate that the
21 *rate of error* will change from the sub-.0033% determined in the NCRL study.
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24 Plaintiffs argue that NCRL's site review procedure is inadequate because
25 NCRL unblocks only the sites it considers fit for viewing by all patrons,
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1 including children, and because the procedure does not occur promptly enough.
2 (Ct. Rec. 53, pg. 11). Neither contention is accurate.
3

4 A decision by NCRL to override the filter does not turn on whether the
5 content is “fit for viewing” by all NCRL patrons, including children. This
6 characterization is Plaintiffs’ subjective spin. In truth, NCRL unblocks sites
7 found to predominantly offer material consistent with NCRL’s Collection
8 Development Policy, the parameters of CIPA, and which does not otherwise
9 jeopardize the interests and safety of patrons and NCRL employees. The impact
10 of unblocking site on children is one, but not the only, impact NCRL considers.
11 In fact, NCRL has received approximately 90 automated unblocking requests
12 since it launched the procedure on October 1, 2007. Of the 90, three requests
13 were denied because the sites contained specific content deemed by NCRL to be
14 harmful to minors. In two instances, the requested content include pornography
15 or links to pornographic web sites. The third instance involved Mr. Heinlen’s
16 recent request to access the “Personals” page of Craigslist.com which commonly
17 includes sexually explicit material and pornography. Thus, although NCRL has
18 broad discretion to decide what is “harmful to minors” under CIPA, experience
19 proves the discretion is conservatively and appropriately exercised.
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1 *E. Internet filtering policy is not subject to heightened scrutiny.*

2 Plaintiffs argue that NCRL blocks categories because it deems the content
3 improper. Consequently, they contend, the NCRL's Policy is constitutionally-
4 valid only if narrowly tailored to meet a compelling interest. (Ct. Rec. 53, p 11).
5

6
7 Plaintiffs mischaracterize the purpose of internet filtering performed
8 pursuant to NCRL's Policy and thus misstate the legal test which applies in
9 evaluating its constitutional validity. A public library's decision to deploy an
10 internet filter is a collection development decision. 539 U.S. at 208-09.
11 Libraries necessarily make content-based decisions with respect to internet
12 based materials just as they must with respect to books or other traditional
13 resources. 539 U.S. at 207-08. A library's quality-based judgments about
14 excluding or including internet resources is no more subject to heightened
15 scrutiny than a decision to exclude pornographic material from its print media
16 collection 539 U.S. at 208. As the *ALA* Court noted :
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21 Moreover, because of the vast quantity of material on
22 the Internet and the rapid pace at which it changes,
23 libraries cannot possibly segregate, item by item, all
24 the Internet material that is appropriate for inclusion
25 from all that is not.... Given that tradeoff, it is entirely
26 reasonable for public libraries to reject that approach
and instead exclude certain categories of content,

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1 without making individualized judgments that
2 everything they do make available has requisite and
3 appropriate quality.

4 539 U.S. at 208.

5 Based on *ALA*, NCRL's Policy relating to internet filtering is not subject
6 to heightened scrutiny. NCRL's Policy is valid as long as it serves substantial
7 interests. *ALA*, 539 U.S. at 215. The undisputed evidence makes clear that this
8 test is easily met.
9

10
11 NCRL deploys the FortiGuard filtering solution in part to comply with
12 CIPA. CIPA requires public libraries seeking eligibility for federal "E-rate" and
13 LSTA funds to install a filter or otherwise deploy technology to block visual
14 depictions deemed to be obscene, child pornography, or otherwise "harmful to
15 minors." 20 U.S.C. 9153(g); 47 U.S.C. 254(h). Plaintiffs claim NCRL's Policy
16 blocks more than CIPA requires without acknowledging that CIPA itself allows
17 NCRL to define what is "harmful to minors." In any event, NCRL's Policy is
18 not based on CIPA alone.
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21 NCRL's Policy also advances NCRL's traditional role and duty as a
22 public library, including its responsibility to exercise professional judgment in
23 shaping its online and traditional collection. These attributes of public libraries
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1 are well articulated in the *ALA* plurality and the concurring opinions. NCRL
2 relies upon its Collection Development Policy in dealing with issues concerning
3 the FortiGuard filter. (Ct. Rec. 29, pg. 17). Conversely, Plaintiffs offer no
4 evidence for their assertions that NCRL's Policy "discourages reading and
5 lifelong learning" and that NCRL's Policy "impedes the library's ability to
6 respond to public suggestions." (Ct. Rec 53, pg. 12-13).
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9
10 Providing appropriate internet access to schools is another substantial
11 interest advanced by NCRL's Policy. The State of Washington has declared a
12 policy of developing public library service as an element of the State's provision
13 of public education. RCW 27.12.020. NCRL's Policy facilitates internet access
14 to schools throughout its geographic reach. Indeed, in 14 of the 26 school
15 districts within NCRL's territory, NCRL branches function as the de facto
16 school libraries.
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20 NCRL's Policy also advances the substantial interest of protecting NCRL
21 patrons and staff by minimize confrontations between staff and adult patrons
22 using computers for inappropriate purposes. By limiting access to sexually-
23 explicit, pornographic sites, NCRL minimizes situations where librarians must
24 ask patrons to discontinue use. Certainly NCRL librarians could simply monitor
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1 adults during periods of unfiltered use or, if funding was not a concern, use
2 recessed desks, privacy screens, or provide segregated areas. But such
3 alternatives have not proven effective in NCRL's experience. In *ALA*, the
4 plurality noted that close monitoring of computer users would be far more
5 intrusive than filtering and would risk "transforming a librarian into a
6 compliance officer." Similarly, recessed monitors, privacy screens, or
7 segregated areas make it *easier* for patrons to use library computers to view
8 online pornography. 539 U.S. at 207 n.3.

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13 NCRL has good cause to believe that unfiltered access will lead to
14 inappropriate internet use and create undesirable working conditions for its staff.
15 NCRL has provided detailed evidence (through the Declaration of Dan Howard)
16 of incidents in which NCRL staff claimed to experience discomfort,
17 embarrassment, and anxiety at having to view sexually-explicit material and
18 confront patrons about inappropriate internet use. Plaintiffs' characterization of
19 the evidence as a general "dislike of having to view what some patrons were
20 viewing" unfairly diminishes the issue. (Ct. Rec 53, p 14). Plaintiffs respond to
21 this evidence by claiming it was not timely disclosed and characterizing it as
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1 inadmissible hearsay. Plaintiffs are wrong. NCRL's Initial Disclosures listed
2 NCRL branch librarians as persons with relevant knowledge. Plaintiffs chose
3 not to pursue discovery from them. Mr. Howard's recitation of the experiences
4 of NCRL staff members is not inadmissible hearsay because NCRL is not
5 offering the incidents to prove the truth of each matter asserted but to prove that
6 NCRL's use of internet filtering is a rational response to concerns expressed by
7 employees. See *Well v. Titanium Metals Corp.*, 361 F.Supp.2d 712, 722 n.10
8 (S.D. Ohio 2005).
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13 Similarly, NCRL's Policy as it relates to internet filtering operates to
14 minimize the potential for hostile work environment liability. The Adamson v.
15 Minneapolis Public Library case demonstrates the potential for litigation among
16 libraries and staff associated with internet use by patrons. Plaintiffs go too far in
17 suggesting that "the conditions of employment at a public library include a
18 willingness to accept that patrons may read things that the staff would not
19 appreciate" goes too far. (Ct. Rec. 53, pg. 16). NCRL staff is not complaining
20 of *Mein Kampf* and *Huckelberry Finn*. Their concern lies with exposure to
21 unwelcome, sexually-explicit content that none should have to contend with in
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1 the performance of their daily duties. Striving for a non-hostile work
2 environment is another substantial interest justifying NCRL's Policy as it relates
3 to internet filtering.
4

5 NCRL also has a substantial interest in protecting children using its
6 facilities and resources. In *ALA*, Justice Kennedy noted that a library's interest
7 in protecting young library users is "compelling, as all Members of the Court
8 appear to agree." 539 U.S. at 215 (Kennedy, J. concurring). Plaintiffs suggest
9 that the proliferation of pornographic internet content accessed by patrons of the
10 Dallas Public Library is not evidence of a "dangerous environment" and in any
11 case constitutes inadmissible hearsay. The article is admissible because it
12 demonstrates that other libraries are dealing with some of the same
13 repercussions of unfiltered internet use that have influenced NCRL's state of
14 mind. See *Price v. Rochford*, 947 F.2d 829, 833 (7th Cir. 1991)(newspaper
15 articles are self-authenticating and not hearsay if offered not for the truth of the
16 matter asserted but for some other purpose); *Carson Harbor Village Ltd. v.*
17 *Unocal*, 287 F. Supp.2d 1118, 1146 (C.D. Cal. 1995).
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27 DEFENDANT NORTH CENTRAL
28 LIBRARY DISTRICT'S REPLY IN
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SUMMARY JUDGMENT - 18

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1 III. CONCLUSION

2 NCRL's Policy as it relates to internet filtering is rationally related to
3
4 substantial, even compelling, interests in complying with CIPA, providing a safe
5 and non-hostile environment for patrons and staff, promoting public education
6 for school age children, and advancing NCRL's collection development goals.
7
8 Internet filtering is reasonably effective at blocking only what is intended and
9 balancing the desirable and less desirable attributes of internet use in the unique
10 setting of a public library. To the extent Plaintiffs' have sustained injury
11 through the application of NCRL's Policy and have standing to challenge its
12 constitutionality, NCRL's Policy easily meets the applicable test under both Art.
13
14 I, § 5 of the Washington Constitution and the First Amendment. NCRL requests
15 that summary judgment be entered in its favor on all claims. Alternatively,
16
17 questions of Plaintiffs' standing and the validity of NCRL's Policy under Art.
18
19 I, § 5 should be certified to the Washington Supreme Court.
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1
2 DATED this 3rd day of March, 2008
3

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1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

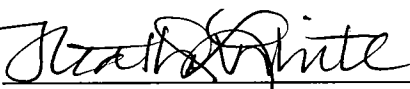
2 I hereby certify that on March 3, 2008, I electronically filed the foregoing
3
4 with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send
5 notification of such filing to the persons listed below:
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