

## **DeKalb Public Library Social Networking Policy**

Policy Purpose: In keeping with the DeKalb Public Library's mission "to inform, educate, inspire and entertain the residents of the community," the Library has included various online social software applications. Social software applications allow library staff and community members to interact through virtual (via the Internet) communication without a visit to the physical library. The DeKalb Public Library regards social software applications as additions to its other information resources. They do not replace real time, in-person communication.

Social software is defined as any website or application which allows users to communicate and receive and share information. Examples include blogs, listservs, instant messaging, websites, social networking sites, and wikis.

### **Rules for Commenting**

Comments, posts, and messages are welcome on DeKalb Public Library networking sites. The Library reserves the right to moderate all comments and remove those that are unlawful or off topic or edit for space or content.

Posts containing the following are against library rules and will be removed and the poster will be barred from posting to the DeKalb Public Library social networking sites. By choosing to post comments you agree to these rules.

- Obscene or racist content
- Personal attacks, insults, or threatening language
- Copyright violations
- Potentially libelous comments
- Off topic comments
- Commercial promotions or spam
- Organized political activity
- Photos or other images

The role and utility of social software applications will be reviewed periodically by library staff and may be terminated at any time without advance notice to subscribers.

Adapted from the Whitman Public Library (MA), Terryville Public Library (CT), Newport Public Library (OR), and Cumberland County Library System (PA)  
Original content by the DeKalb Public Library, DeKalb IL

Adopted by the Board of Trustees  
DeKalb Public Library  
December 2011