

EDWARD F. OWEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY LOITERING POLICY

This policy prohibits in all areas of the Edward F. Owen Memorial Library any behavior which is not in accord with the intended use of those spaces as governed by the mission of the Edward F. Owen Memorial Library. The Library Board of Trustees has adopted a loitering policy in order to achieve a safe and pleasant facility for its patrons, staff and visitors.

PURPOSE

This policy enables the Library Director to exercise the authority to regulate the use of the library and reading areas and to render the library and its reading areas of the greatest benefit to the greatest number of users. This policy is in keeping with the guidelines for the development and implementation of policies, regulations and procedures affecting access to library materials, and services and facilities. It does not prohibit initial access of any person to any time, place or manner of access to library services which will be enforced without prejudice or between individuals or classes or individuals.

DEFINITIONS OF LOITERING AND IMPROPER USE

The policy defines "loitering" as the act of entering and remaining in any area of the library with no apparent purpose and without the apparent intent to use or examine the library facilities located in that area. In all such cases the burden of proof will be upon library employees.

Loitering includes but is not limited to:

- Roaming through the library with no apparent purpose and/or intent to use or learn about library facilities. This includes all halls and thoroughfares.
- Sleeping in the stacks, study areas, reading areas, offices, mechanical and non-public areas, halls and thoroughfares
- Standing, sitting, or lying on floors or furniture in a manner that sufficiently disturbs other patrons or employees, blocks or obstructs potential or actual library traffic, or obstructs other patrons from using the library facilities.

This policy defines "improper use" to include:

- Making excessive noise
Talking loudly, socializing, or otherwise causing a public or private peace disturbance in areas designated for library research, study areas, or in designated quiet areas.
- Any other disruptive or aberrant behavior, such as fighting, harassment, verbal or physical altercations, and verbal outbursts within any library area.
- Any disorderly behavior within any area of the library due to intoxication by alcoholic beverages or controlled substances.

Any person who is permanently restricted from the library will be given an alternative means of access to information if reasonably possible. Special arrangements must be made with the Library Director who will decide what provisions must be made, if any, for alternative access. If the person refuses to comply with a warning, library personnel will call for police assistance and have the person removed from the library grounds. Any person wishing to appeal or otherwise question a restriction, as defined in this document, should be referred to the Library Director or in his/her absence, the Library Board President.

Adopted by the Library Board of Trustees 6/28/2004
Updated 2/2009, 8/2014, 1/2018