

Appropriate use of the Library

The University City Public Library is a "City Library" and therefore subject to Sections 182.140 to 182.301 RSMo on "City Libraries". Section 182.200.2 RSMo provides that the Board of Trustees "shall make and adopt such bylaws, rules and regulations for their own guidance, and for the government of the library, as may be expedient, and not inconsistent with sections 182.140 to 182.301." The Revised Missouri Statutes [RSMo.] §182.230 (Supp. 2006) Section 182.230 RSMo provides that every library and reading room "shall be forever free to the use of the inhabitants of the city where located, always subject to such reasonable rules and regulations as the library board may adopt in order to render the use of the library and reading room of the greatest benefit to the greatest number", and the "board may exclude from the use of the library and reading room any and all persons who willfully violate such rules."

The Board of Trustees of the University City Public Library welcomes visitors and encourages visitors to use the resources of the public library to meet their informational and recreational reading needs. The Board acknowledges that there are several appropriate uses for library facilities and that behavior suitable for some occasions and spaces within the Library is not appropriate for others. The rules listed below, governing patron use of the University City Public Library, attempt to assure a reasonably safe and pleasant environment for staff and patrons; to protect the right of the public to use library services and materials and to protect library resources and facilities. These rules are intended to guide patrons and staff so that they may conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the purposes and functions of the Library and avoid affecting the appropriate use of the Library by fellow patrons. The Board of Trustees encourages children to use the Library. The safety and responsibility for the well being of those children, however, lies solely with the parent/guardian or assigned chaperon of those children, not with Library personnel. These rules are intended to be illustrative rather than all inclusive.

RULES GOVERNING PATRON USE OF THE UNIVERSITY CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Violation of Federal or State Statute or Local Ordinances

The violation of any federal or state statutes or local ordinances on the premises of the University City Public Library (UCPL) will also be regarded as a violation of UCPL rules. The laws and ordinances that follow are cited only as examples:

1. The Missouri Statutes on Arson (§569.040-.050), Assault (Sections 565.050, .060 and .070) Robbery (§569.020 and .030), Stealing (§570.030), Library Theft (§570.210), Sexual Misconduct (Sections 566.083 and .093), Violation of the Missouri Controlled Substances Laws (§195.202), Tampering and Endangerment of Property (§569.080-.090), Tampering with Computer Data (§569.095), Unlawful Use of Weapons (§571.030), and Peace Disturbance (§574.010), Harassment (§565.090), Felonious Restraint (§565.120), False Imprisonment (§565.130), Child Abduction (§565.156), Stalking (§565.225) Child Abuse (§568.060), Promoting Obscenity (Sections 573.020 and .030), and Child Pornography (Sections 573.025 and .035-.040) apply to behavior in the Library.
2. The City of University City Ordinances prohibiting Drinking in Public (Section 9.08.080), Urinating in Public (Section 9.08.100), Trespass (Section 9.16.040), Loud and Unnecessary Noise (Section 9.08.240), Unlawful Assemblies (Section 9.08.050), Soliciting without a License (Section 5.16.010), Failure to Return Books (Section 9.16.090), Library Theft (Section 9.16.090), and Defacing Books or Property of the Public Library (9.16.080) apply to behavior in the Library

On UCPL premises, no person shall:

1. Commit an assault or battery upon any person.
2. Engage in a fight.
3. Steal or take property not his own.
4. Deface, destroy, damage or remove any property not authorized by UCPL.
5. Engage in any indecent or obscene conduct or make any indecent exposure of his or her body.
6. Use, give away or sell any controlled substance.
7. Possess a weapon unless authorized by state law or by the director of UCPL security.

8. Smoke or carry ignited material, or “vape” or use an electronic nicotine delivery system.
9. Remain in the building after regular closing hours, except by the invitation of UCPL.
10. Break any federal or state statute, or local ordinances that disrupt library operations.

Persons who violate the statutes, ordinances and rules listed above are subject to the withholding of UCPL privileges as follows:

FIRST OFFENSE: UCPL privileges will be revoked for one year.

SECOND OFFENSE: UCPL privileges will be revoked for three years.

The Director of the UCPL or his designate will notify patrons whose library privileges have been revoked by means of written correspondence via certified mail to the involved patron's last known address.

Also in accordance with Revised Missouri Statutes and City of University City and the rules of UCPL, no person on UCPL premises shall:

11. Be intoxicated.
12. Carry beverage bottles holding alcoholic beverages and consume alcoholic beverages at unauthorized times and places.
13. Summon or cause a false report to be made to the police, fire department or any other official agency
14. Persist in disturbing the public peace by loud or aggressive conduct.
15. Solicit or accost any person for the purpose of inducing them to participate in an act of prostitution.
16. Harass any other person or cause alarm to another person or persons on the premises.
17. Promote or conduct gambling activity on UCPL properties.

Persons who violate the statutes, ordinances and rules listed above are subject to the withholding of UCPL privileges as follows:

FIRST OFFENSE: UCPL privileges will be revoked for one month.

SECOND OFFENSE: UCPL privileges will be revoked for six months.

REPEAT OFFENSES: UCPL privileges will be revoked for one year.

The Director of the UCPL or his designate will notify patrons whose library privileges have been revoked by means of written correspondence via certified mail to the involved patron's last known address.

Persons in apparent violation of federal, state or local law are to be reported to the police by the highest ranking staff member present. Legal action may be taken by the Library through the filing of a criminal complaint.

Prohibitions By Library Policy

In addition, it is the policy of the University City Public Library:

18. To require patrons be engaged in activities associated with the use of a public library while in the building. Patrons not engaged in reading, studying, or using library materials shall be required to leave the building.
19. Cardholders must use their own personal University City Public Library card when accessing Library computers.
20. To prohibit the access/presence by non staff to any non public areas, unless accompanied by a staff member.
21. To prohibit the consumption of food and beverages in the UCPL, except as authorized by the Library for specified occasions, or in specified areas of the Library.
22. To ban animals from the Library except for assist animals and as authorized for special events by UCPL Administration.

23. To prohibit all campaigning, petitioning, interviewing, survey taking, photography or video taping, soliciting or sales in library buildings and on library property without written permission from library administration.
24. To require that patrons wear shirts and shoes at all times in the Library.
25. To ban conversation and other sounds in louder volume than the general noise level of the area of the building at that time. Loud or boisterous behavior, running and foul or abusive language will not be tolerated.
This policy does not prohibit quiet conversation between patrons or staff or conversation and sounds required to carry on UCPL programs or business.
26. To require that sound equipment be operated at a volume which does not disturb other library users.
27. To prohibit sleeping, bathing, laundry or other inappropriate behavior in UCPL facilities.
28. To require patrons whose bodily hygiene is offensive so as to constitute a nuisance to other patrons to leave the building.
29. To prohibit patrons from bringing in articles that are too large to fit underneath or behind one library chair so as to block aisles or otherwise interfere with patron access. Patrons may not use wheeled devices in Library property, including skateboards, roller skates, scooters, and shopping carts (except for wheelchairs, walkers, and strollers).
30. To prohibit patrons from putting their feet on library furniture.
31. To prohibit littering on all UCPL properties.
32. To prohibit begging or soliciting.

Persons who violate the statutes, ordinances and rules listed above are subject to the withholding of UCPL privileges as follows:

FIRST OFFENSE: Patron will be evicted from UCPL and prohibited from returning for the remainder of the day.

SECOND OFFENSE: Patron will be evicted from UCPL and UCPL privileges will be revoked for a period of one week.

REPEAT OFFENSES: UCPL privileges will be revoked for a period of six months.

Patrons will be notified verbally, and in the case of minors, parent or guardian will also be notified verbally. Staff will notify highest ranking staff member present of any attempt to use the Library by a patron whose privileges have been revoked or rescinded. The police will also be notified of any such episodes as the presence of such patrons shall be considered as a trespassing offense.

The Director of the UCPL or his designate will notify patrons whose library privileges have been revoked for a six month period by means of written correspondence via certified mail to the involved patron's last known address. Patrons who have this action pending against them will be given an opportunity to argue their cases, in writing or in person to the Director or his designate.

If a patron has library privileges revoked or rescinded, staff should document the incident by using the incident report form.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees December 13, 2006
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