



BROOKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

224 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301

224 Main St. Brattleboro, Vt.~802-254-5290~brattlib@brooks.lib.vt.us

Brooks Memorial Library Social Software Policy

Purpose

Social Software is defined as any web application, site or account created and maintained by Brooks Memorial Library(BML) which facilitates an environment for library staff and library users to share opinions and information about library related subjects or issues. BML recognizes and respects differences in opinion.

Policy

Brooks Memorial Library regards online social software applications in the same way as its other information resources in accordance with its mission of serving Brattleboro needs for information, lifelong learning, and leisure pursuits. As with more traditional resources, the Library does not act in place of or in the absence of a parent. The Library is not responsible for enforcing any restrictions which a parent or guardian may place on a minor's use of this resource.

In addition to the general rules respecting use of the library, the Brooks Memorial Library prohibits the use of its social software applications for any purpose which would contravene any legislation or government regulation, (Please see Town of Brattleboro Social Media Policy, www.brattleboro.org) or which might create civil liability by the user or the Library Board to any person. An example of civil liability is the law of libel and slander. Users are reminded that ignorance of the law is not an excuse. Use of Library social software applications is conditional on the user's agreement to observe this policy. By continuing to use the application, the user indicates agreement to all requirements of this policy.

Comments, posts and messages are welcome on BML social software sites, provided they do not contain:

- Obscene or racist content
- Defamation of others, personal attacks and comments which would tend to intimidate others
- Potentially libelous statements
- Plagiarized material
- Private, personal information published without consent
- Comments totally unrelated to the content of the forum

Adapted from: Burlington (Ontario) Public Library; the Newton (Mass.) Free Library Blog Policy; Washoe County Library Social Software Policy

Approved by BML Board of Library Trustees June 14, 2011, Revised January 8, 2013



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- Hyperlinks to material that is not directly related to the discussion
- Commercial promotions or spam

All social software sites affiliated with the library will be regularly screened by library director or designee. All postings which contain any of the above will be immediately removed and the poster barred from posting any subsequent messages to library social software sites.

Any proposals by library staff to use social software applications to expand or promote the collections, services and programs of Brooks Memorial Library are first vetted by the Library Director. Town officials who have administrative access to social media sites and are designated as “authorized Town officials as defined in the “Town of Brattleboro, Social Media Policy,” will need to complete the “Acknowledgement of Official Use by Authorized Town Officials.”

By posting content, the user agrees to indemnify BML 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 and any cause of action should the user's posting(s) be removed and the poster barred from posting. Forums and messaging may not be used for commercial purposes or for organized political activity.

If any user does not agree to these terms, they are not to use the service, as violation of the terms can lead to legal liability.

This policy may be amended by the Library Director at any time subject to approval of the Board of Trustees.

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