

1C—On Access

Policy, Politics, Porn: Implications of VPL's Public Internet Policy Debate for Intellectual Freedom and Critical Discourse in Libraries, Myron Groover (McMaster University), Allison Trumble (Simon Fraser University).

When Vancouver Public Library changed its internet policy last year, forbidding patrons to view “sexually explicit” content, the library community was quick to express concern. Equally swiftly, however, efforts to shut down debate put a damper on public discussion of the policy. This incident offers us an opportunity to explore the policy’s (and the debate’s) implications for our sector-wide commitment to intellectual freedom; it also invites us to ask what role academic librarians have to play in such conversations. How can we use academic freedom in support of our public library colleagues when issues of intellectual freedom are on the line?