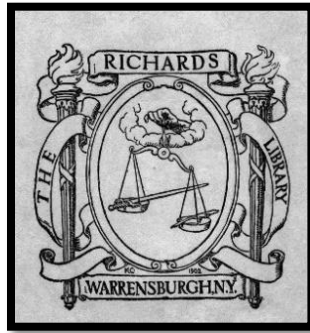


The Richards Library Policies



Security Cameras

In order to provide a safe and secure environment for patrons, Staff and the Library collection, the Board of Trustees of The Richards Library has established the following policy in regard to the use of security cameras within and without The Richards Library.

Purpose:

Since Library Staff are unable to provide direct supervision over all areas within the Library and its grounds, the security cameras are placed at selected locations in order to observe and record visible activities of persons within the Library and its property. Observation of activity, whether in real time or from digital records storage, shall be limited to activities that are specific to Library operations and those that may affect the safety and security of Library patrons, Staff and Library assets. A real-time monitor will be placed at the Circulation Desk for use by the Director and Staff.

Privacy and Confidentiality:

Camera placement will be determined by the Director or his/her designee. The placement of cameras is for the safety of the Staff and patrons, which is the first priority; protection of Library property is of secondary importance. Cameras shall not be placed in areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy, such as restrooms.

To the extent that any recorded images include identifiable persons requesting information or checking out an item, such record shall be treated as confidential as interpreted by NYS Civil Practice Law and Rules, CVP§4509-Library Records, and as accepted by NYLA, and reads as:

“Library records, which contain names or other personally identifying details regarding the users of public, free association, school, college and university libraries and library systems of this state, including but not limited to records related to the circulation of library materials, computer database searches, interlibrary loan transactions, reference queries, requests for photocopies of library materials, title reserve requests, or the use of audio-visual materials, films or records, shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed except that such records may be disclosed to the extent necessary for the proper operation of such library and shall be disclosed upon request or consent of the user or pursuant to subpoena, court order or where otherwise required by statute.”

Only designated library staff may view real time images or screen recorded images for potential breach of confidentiality. Any inadvertent views of protected information shall be held in confidence by the library Staff under the Library's confidentiality policy.

Public Notice:

Signage shall be conspicuously displayed within the Library advising of the recording of video images. Conversations or other audible communications shall not be monitored or recorded by the security cameras.

Data Storage and Access:

Cameras will record activities in real time and images will be saved to the camera server's hard drive. The capacity of the storage system allows for images to be stored for a period of 16 days. Current software deletes images automatically as the capacity of the hard drive is reached. The Library is not obligated to store images past the 16-day limit. Cameras will not be monitored continuously by Library Staff.

Access to the archived footage in pursuit of documented injuries or criminal activity is restricted to designated Staff: Library Director and Staff. Those designated members may view archived footage only as needed to see if the system is functioning properly.

When dealing with Law Enforcement officials, access will only be allowed when pursuant to a subpoena, court order or when otherwise required by law. In such cases, the Board President and Vice-President will be notified so that they may acquire legal advice related to the previously stated allowances. However, Law Enforcement officials may be given copies of recorded material if the Library is initiating criminal proceedings against person/persons who have committed damage to Library property, assaulted a Staff member or other serious, related offenses. Confidentiality and privacy issues prohibit the general public from viewing security camera footage that contains personally identifying information about library users or footage that is archived and to be used in a criminal case commenced by the library. If the Library receives a request from a member of the general public to inspect security camera footage, they will be advised to file a police complaint.

Approved and adopted by The Richards Library Board of Trustees April 19, 2018

Permission was obtained from the Aurora Public Library, Aurora, IL, The Warren County Library, Belvidere, NJ and the Elizabeth Public Library, Elizabeth, NJ, to use, alter and/or adapt excerpts from each of their library policies to formulate this current policy, on 17 April 2018.