

REGULAR MEETING

November 24, 2011

A meeting of the London Public Library Board was held on the above date in the Friends of the London Public Library Board Room, Central Library at 5:30 p.m. with the following present:

From the Board: J. Morgan (Chair), N. Branscombe, M. Brown, S. Courtice, G. Leckie, J. Lubell, T. Nugent and D. Vachon;

Senior Management: S. Hubbard Krimmer, A. Baker, N. Collister, E. Hobin, B. Kinchlea, M. Mitchell, A. Thompson, T. Travers and M. Wilkinson;

Other Staff: R. Verhulst;

Guests: S. Trosow;

From the Media: Mallory Clarkson, London Community News; Gerry Dewan, CTV; Brenden Gibbins, 106.9 XFM News; Chip Martin, London Free Press; Phil McLeod and Angela Mullens, Metro Newspaper;

Minutes taken by: J. White.

APOLOGIES - Mr. Colwell

L11/83 WELCOME

Mr. Morgan welcomed guests to the meeting.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST – none

L11/84 CHANGES TO AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A revised agenda was distributed.

It was MOVED by Councillor Branscombe and seconded by Ms. Lubell that the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

L11/85 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was MOVED by Mr. Courtice and seconded by Ms. Leckie that the minutes of October 27, 2011 (L11/74-L11/82) be approved.

CARRIED

L11/86 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - none

L11/87

DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Internet Service Policy

Professor Sam Trosow made a presentation to the Library Board regarding internet filtering. His presentation is attached to the minutes.

At the five minute mark, Mr. Morgan pointed out that Mr. Trosow's presentation was over the allowed time limit, so the following motion was made:

It was MOVED by Mr. Courtice and seconded by Ms. Vachon that Mr. Trosow's time limit be extended.

CARRIED

L11/88

CONSENT ITEMS

It was MOVED by Councillor Branscombe and seconded by Councillor Brown that the following consent items be received:

Correspondence from Megan Walker re: removing access to pornography at the London Public Library. (November 7, 2011)

Correspondence from Susan Longley regarding library censorship and internet filters. (October 30, 2011)

Correspondence from David Caloren, President, CUPE Local 217 regarding the Internet Service Policy. (November 15, 2011)

Media/Social Media regarding Internet Service Policy.

Correspondence from Sue Myles regarding pornography. (November 21, 2011)

Email from J.H. Chambers regarding pornography. (November 22, 2011)

Emails from Megan Walker and Josh Morgan. (November 18, November 21st, 2011)

Email from Stuart Clark regarding patron authentication. (November 23, 2011)

Correspondence from Megan Walker regarding Internet Services Policy. (November 24, 2011)

CARRIED

L11/89

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, MEMBERS, AND STAFF REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

Internet Bandwidth and Wireless Network Report

This report discusses the allocation of London Public Library Internet bandwidth and an administrative decision to introduce "patron authentication" on the LPL wireless network and timelines for the implementation process.

The issue of patron privacy was discussed as well as guest access for those renting meeting space.

It was MOVED by Councillor Branscombe and seconded by Ms. Leckie that the report Internet Bandwidth and Wireless Network Report be received and further, that Administration provide additional information on the wireless network, patron authentication and how the service will be managed for early 2012.

CARRIED

L11/89.1 Internet Service Policy Annual Review & Background Report

Mr. Morgan thanked Library patrons, citizens and organizations in London for their contributions to the Internet Service Policy Annual Review.

Discussion included patron behaviour, viewing material inappropriate in a library space, determining what is objectionable content, and the complaint/feedback process.

It was MOVED by Ms. Leckie and seconded by Councillor Branscombe that Administration examine alternate ways to provide a stronger statement of user responsibility in the Internet Services Policy, Section #3 User Responsibilities for the December 15th, 2011 Board meeting.

CARRIED

L11/89.2 It was MOVED by Councillor Brown and seconded by Ms. Leckie that the Library Board direct Administration to investigate and report to the Board in June, 2012 on the feasibility, cost and sources of funding of adding filtering capabilities to the LPL Internet Wireless Service, such as filtering by area within the library, specifically in areas dedicated to the use of children and teens; filtering by patron membership type, specifically children/youth; etc.

CARRIED

At 6:24 p.m., Ms. Leckie assumed the Chair.

Access to extreme violent content was discussed. These sites include extreme violence, torture and mutilation. Mr. Morgan introduced a motion to include the filtering of the additional category of Extreme Adult to all filtered machines. As a friendly amendment,

L11/89.3 It was MOVED by Councillor Branscombe and seconded by Mr. Courtice that Administration provide background information on the filtering category of Extreme Adult for the December 15th, 2011 Board meeting.

CARRIED

It was MOVED by Mr. Morgan and seconded by Councillor Brown that Administration investigate and bring back a report at the December meeting so that the Board may consider the possibility of including the filtering of the additional category of Extreme Adult to all filtered machines, being:

Computers specifically designated for use by children and/or teens, such as Homework Centres;

Computers in spaces specifically designed for use by children and/or teens;

Computers designated for specific functions, such as the Employment Resource Centre computers; and

Computers filtered in cases in which all other methods of due diligence regarding the reasonable protection of children/teens cannot be achieved.

CARRIED

At 6:40 p.m., Mr. Morgan assumed the Chair.

L11/89.4

It was MOVED by Councillor Branscombe and seconded by Mr. Courtice that the Library Board:

- Affirm the assumptions and guiding principles, as found in the body of this report, which serve as the foundation for the London Public Library *Internet Service Policy*;
- Approve the *Internet Service Policy*, as found in Appendix 1, incorporating the following amendments:
 - Wording revisions to clarify that the policy applies to access to the Internet through the use of LPL's wireless network and any other wireless service in Library space, defined as any property owned or rented by the London Public Library, including exterior space; and
- Direct staff to continue monitoring the wireless environment in the Library, assessing the impact of patron authentication and to report to the Board in September 2012.

It is also recommended that the Library Board affirm the foundational principle stated in its *Charter of Library Use*, that: London Public Library endeavours to provide a welcoming and safe environment for the enjoyment of the community and staff, so that all may enjoy the benefits of the Library.

CARRIED

At 6:45 p.m., Councillor Branscombe left the meeting. The meeting recessed and resumed at 7:00 p.m.

L11/89.5 Service Report: 2011 Summer Programs and Activities for Children and Teens

Ms. Collister presented information on the TD Summer Reading Club Splash Celebrate Summer events. Ms. Brandl was recognized for her work on this project.

It was MOVED by Ms. Leckie and seconded by Councillor Brown that the report, 2011 Summer Programs and Activities for Children and Teens be received.

CARRIED

L11/89.6 Balanced Score Card Report, 3rd Quarter 2011

Ms. Wilkinson highlighted information contained in the Balanced Score Card Report, 3rd Quarter, 2011.

It was MOVED by Mr. Courtice and seconded by Ms. Lubell that the report, Balanced Score Card, 3rd Quarter 2011, be received.

CARRIED

L11/89.7 Glanworth Branch Library Task Team – Progress Report

Ms. Hubbard Krimmer provided information on the Task Team activities over the past month. A fund development campaign has commenced and grant applications have been prepared.

A community open house will be held in December, 2011.

It was MOVED by Ms. Leckie and seconded by Councillor Brown that the progress report on the Glanworth Branch Library Task Team be received.

CARRIED

L11/90 CONSENT ITEMS

It was MOVED by Mr. Courtice and seconded by Ms. Leckie that the following consent items be received:

Events of Interest to Library Board Members
Draft Agenda – December 15, 2011
Smoke Free Public Outdoor Spaces – Technical Report and Recommended Policy Option, November 17, 2011
Connecting in the core, Business London, November, 2011

CARRIED

L11/91 INQUIRIES AND OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Morgan made a suggestion to provide electronic copies of Board agendas instead of hard copies. Administration will contact the City Clerk's office to obtain information on how City Council packages are distributed.

Ms. Hubbard Krimmer suggested that meetings for 2012 commence in February to June and continuing through August to December.

At 7:30 p.m., the meeting entered in-camera session and at 7:31 p.m. the meeting resumed.

L11/92 REPORT ON MATTERS FROM THE EXECUTIVE SESSION

ON MOTION, the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Chair

Secretary

Internet Filtering at the London Public Library

Presentation for London Public Library Board

November 24, 2011

by

Samuel E. Trosow, Associate Professor
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Obscenity and Pornography

a crucial distinction

- It is important not to conflate pornography with the particular forms of pornography “child pornography” and “obscenity”
 - Calls for banning of pornography (or the use of internet filters to block pornography) often conflate these terms
 - The Criminal Code of Canada contains very specific definitions of proscribed child pornography and obscenity – at the same time, the broader set of materials are protected forms of expression and public agencies should not impose limitations – especially when they take the form of a prior restraint
 - Content filters as applied to internet terminals should be viewed as a form of a prior restraint
 - This presentation will look at the issue of filtering terminals in public libraries for the purpose of blocking pornography
-

Internet Filtering in the Library

- Internet filtering has generally been disfavored by the library community and its associations on the grounds on intellectual freedom and access to information grounds
 - The ALA has opposed mandatory internet filtering and has gone to court on several occasions to stop it
 - See ALA 2001 resolution opposing the enactment of the Children's' Internet Protection Act by the 106th Congress, calling on the 107th Congress to repeal it, and vowing to challenge the act in court if necessary
 - In many communities, the pressures for internet filtering come from various sources but are typically met with opposition from the library boards
 - In the U.S., after unsuccessful attempts to mandate internet filtering failed to pass muster under the First Amendment, Congress passed CIPA, which was upheld by a narrow plurality subject to several caveats
 - There has been less controversy in Canada, and there is no published legal case on the subject
-

CIPA

- Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) enacted in 2000 forbidding libraries from receiving e-rate or LSTA funding unless filtering software is used
 - 2001 ALA resolution called on Congress to repeal CIPA or ALA would litigate it
 - Trial ct ruled CIPA unconstitutional in ALA v US
 - USSC plurality opinion, 4 of the 9 justices (Rehnquist, O'Connor, Scalia & Thomas) upheld CIPA as within the Congress' broad "spending power"
-

CIPA upheld in US v ALA

- Plurality finds internet filtering not a first amendment violation constitutional violation
 - Kennedy & Bryer filed separate concurring opinions on different grounds
 - Stevens, Souter & Ginsberg dissented
 - Question of “as-applied” challenge left open
 - Many libraries in U.S. have complied in order to retain funding. Others have refused to comply
 - <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/02pdf/02-361.pdf>
-

No similar mandate in Canada

- In fact there is no instance of a published decision on internet filtering in Canada. It is an open and untested question.
 - **Question:** How would the Canadian Courts respond to a challenge to internet filtering in a public library brought under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms?
-

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms Analysis

Section 1.

The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* guarantees the rights and freedoms set out in it subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

Section 2.

Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms:

- b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication;
-

Charter Analysis: General

There have been numerous cases finding an infringement of section 2(b) where the measure was upheld as a reasonable measure under section 1.

The Supreme Court of Canada has adopted a two-step test to decide if an individual's freedom of expression has been infringed.

- first : determine whether the activity falls within freedom of expression (is expressive activity involved)
- second: determine whether the purpose or the effect of the impugned government action is to restrict that freedom

If there is an **infringement of freedom of expression**, the inquiry then turns to whether it can be **justified under section 1**.

Charter Analysis: General

- Courts would likely find prior restraints by a public agency (i.e. internet filtering) an infringement of expressive activity
 - The more difficult question would be whether the impugned measure would be justifiable under section 1.
 - Courts have found infringements of expression rights in cases involving hate speech, obscenity and even child pornography.
 - But such measures were found to be reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.
-

Limitations on Pornography & Hate-Speech

- Pornography (and hate-speech) qualify as protected expressive activities as they convey a message
 - Provisions criminalizing certain forms of pornography (obscenity and child pornography) and certain hate speech are considered infringements of expression, but are upheld as reasonable section 1 limitations
 - Crucial analysis in these cases is under sec. 1.
-

How would a filtering challenge be decided in Canada under section 1?

- Assuming the court finds the charter applicable (a public library is a creature of provincial legislation and its board is appointed by the municipal council). . . .
 - And assuming an infringement of expressive activity is found (which is exactly what filters are designed to accomplish)
 - Then the analysis would turn to section 1. Is the measure *a reasonable limit prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society?*
-

Interpreting Section 1: The Oakes test

The test for “reasonable limits” was established in *R. v. Oakes*, [1986 CanLII 46 \(S.C.C.\)](#), [1986] 1 S.C.R. 103

First: Look at the importance of the objective of the limiting measure. The objective underlying the limitation must be of sufficient importance to warrant overriding a constitutionally protected right or freedom

Second: The means chosen to reach this objective are must be proportionate. What is the reasonableness of the means adopted to achieve the objective (there are three components to this second question, hence four parts to the Oakes test)

The onus is on the government to establish the elements of justification under section 1

Oakes Test : Legitimate Objective

- Objective must be sufficiently important to justify overriding a protected right
 - Objective must relate to concerns which are pressing & substantial in a free and democratic society
 - Courts have been deferential to legislative judgments
 - How the this legislative purpose / objective is defined will be important in later analysis. If the objective is narrowly stated, it may be easier to justify the limitations as proportionate in later analysis (or if stated too broadly, proportionality may be harder to justify)
-

Oakes Test : Legitimate Objective

- The Oakes case dealt with the constitutionality of a reverse onus presumption that required the accused found in possession of drugs to show that they lacked the intent to traffic in the drugs
 - As to the first prong of the test, the court found that there was a legitimate governmental objective in curbing traffic in drugs.
 - In other cases, courts have found legitimate objectives in curbing hate speech and the harms caused by pornography.
 - A court would likely find that internet filtering meets this requirement.
-

Some applications of the first prong of the Oakes test:

- Limiting obscenity (based on harm- not morals) legitimate interest ([*R. v Butler*](#))
 - Limiting harm caused by hate-speech legitimate interest ([*R. v Keegstra*](#))
 - Compelling the observance of Christian Sabbath **not** a compelling objective ([*R. v Big M Drug Mart*](#))
 - Banning publication of opinion polls within three days of election **not** based on legitimate interest -- objective of giving voters a period of poll-free rest and reflection rejected ([*Thomson Newspapers v Canada*](#))
 - Province denying protection of its Human Rights laws to gays/lesbians **not** proper objective ([*Vriend v Alberta*](#))
 - Rational connection (and legitimate objective) exists for curbing cigarette ads ([*RJR v Canada*](#))
-

Oakes Test: Proportionality

It's not enough for there to be a legitimate objective for the limitation -- limitation must be proportionate to the objective -- three strands to this inquiry:

1. rational connection between the objective and the limitation - it cannot be arbitrary or capricious (**no shifting purpose**)
 2. Minimal Impairment test: Would there be other reasonable way to satisfy the objective that would have less impact on the right being considered? While Oakes spoke of "least restrictive means" later cases relax the standard so the measure chosen needn't absolutely be least restrictive alternative. The government should show why a less restrictive alternative would be inadequate.
 3. Overall balance/proportionality between objective and the means used
-

Obscenity and Pornography

a crucial distinction

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 - The Criminal Code of Canada contains very specific definitions of proscribed child pornography and obscenity
 - This presentation will look at the issue of filtering terminals in public libraries for the purpose of blocking pornography
-

Obscenity: Criminal Code Sec. 163

(1) Every one commits an offence who

(a) makes, prints, publishes, distributes, circulates, or has in his possession for the purpose of publication, distribution or circulation any **obscene** written matter, picture, model, phonograph record or other thing whatever; or

* * *

(2) Every one commits an offence who knowingly, without lawful justification or excuse,

(a) sells, exposes to public view or has in his possession for such a purpose any **obscene** written matter, picture, model, phonograph record or other thing whatever;

* * *

But what actually constitutes such proscribed *obscenity*?

Obscenity is further defined in section 163(8) of the Criminal Code:

(8) For the purposes of this Act, any publication a dominant characteristic of which is the undue exploitation of sex, or of sex and any one or more of the following subjects, namely, crime, horror, cruelty and violence, shall be deemed to be obscene.

- Note how this definition is much narrower and specific than merely being *sexually explicit*.
- Not all pornography is obscene.
- This definition of obscenity was upheld in [*R. v Butler*](#) (1992)

R. v Butler (1992)

- Butler (a sex shop operator) was convicted of selling and possessing obscene material under section [163](#) of the Criminal Code.
 - The court unanimously agreed that the prohibition of obscenity was an infringement of the right to expression under section 2(b)
 - The majority went on to find the provision justified under section 1. The definition of obscenity was limited– it did not apply to ALL materials that were sexually explicit
 - The specific forms of exploitation of sex (must be undue or combined with or of sex and any one or more of the following crime, horror, cruelty and violence) were deemed harmful to society
-

R. v Butler (1992): Upholds sec. 163

- The specific forms of exploitation of sex (must be undue or combined with or of sex and any one or more of the following crime, horror, cruelty and violence) were deemed harmful to society
 - Harm was not based on offense to morals (as under previous decency laws) but based on harm to society, particularly to women.
 - In order for the work or material to qualify as "obscene", the exploitation of sex must not only be its dominant characteristic, but such exploitation must be "undue".
 - Law was drafted with enough specificity so that it was not excessively vague.
 - Legitimate objective requirement was met – avoidance of harm to society (not merely a moral statement)
-

Community standard test is national

Butler Court says:

“In order for the work or material to qualify as "obscene", the exploitation of sex must not only be its dominant characteristic, but such exploitation must be "undue". In determining when the exploitation of sex will be considered "undue", the courts have attempted to formulate workable tests. The most important of these is the "community standard of tolerance" test.”

“The community standards test has been the subject of extensive judicial analysis. It is the standards of the community as a whole which must be considered and not the standards of a small segment of that community . . .”

“The standard to be applied is a **national** one. . .”

(note contrast to US cases which admit local community standards)

R. v Butler (1992): Upholds sec. 163

- Sufficiently important objective (as in limitation upheld re hate-speech in [Keegstra](#) in 1992)
Legitimate objective requirement was met – avoidance of harm to society (not just on moral grounds)
- Restriction satisfies **proportionality** requirements as it does not extend beyond material that creates appreciable risk to society
- Provision does not extend to serious artistic expression nor to private possession of obscene materials (note that in the case of child pornography, possession itself is also prohibited and this was upheld in [R. v Sharpe](#) in 2001)

Libraries should undertake to limit “Butler materials” without limiting other “non-Butler materials”

- Materials that fit the definition of obscenity as upheld and interpreted in the Butler decision are referred to as “**Butler materials**”
- There would be no constitutional issue with blocking content which comes within the definition proscribed “Butler materials”
- Reasonable diligence should be exercised in protecting the public from exposure to Butler materials on its premises.
- The question becomes how to do that without at the same time limiting access to non-Butler materials

The Netsweeper Classification System

23- Pornography

Category List

1	Journals and Blogs	Primary	47	Redirector Page	System
2	Arts & Culture	Primary	53	Web Email	Primary
4	Criminal Skills	Primary	54	Web Chat	Primary
5	Occult	Primary	100	Invalid Serial	Internal
6	Match Making	Primary	101	Unauthorized Access	Internal
7	Substance Abuse	Primary	102	WebAdmin Access	internal
8	Entertainment	Primary	103	Override Filtering	Internal
9	Extreme	Primary	104	Local List	Internal
10	Gambling	Primary	105	Global List	Internal
11	Games	Primary	106	Unknown Category	Internal
12	General News	Primary	150	File Sharing	System
13	Hate Speech	Primary	151	Instant Messaging	System
14	Humour	Primary	152	Email	System
15	Investing	Primary	153	Voice Over IP	System
16	Job Search	Primary	154	Misc Protocols	System
17	Adware	System	155	Streaming Media	System
19	Sales	Primary	160	Alcohol	System
20	Political	Primary	166	Weapons	System
22	Self Help	Primary	170	Profanity	System
23	Pornography	Primary	238	Intranet Server	System
24	Sports	Primary	244	Host is an IP	System
25	Travel	Primary	245	Safe Search	System
26	Religion	Primary	246	Network Timeout	System
27	Sex Education	Primary	247	Malformed URL	System
28	Search Engine	Primary	248	No Text	System
31	Technology	Primary	249	Directory	System
32	Proxy Anonymizer	System	250	Search Keywords	System
37	Portals	Primary	252	Network Unavailable	System
40	Under Construction	System	253	Images	System
41	Alternative Lifestyles	Primary	254	New URL	System
45	General	System			

Pornography - 23

This category contains URLs that reference, discuss, or show pornography, pictures, videos, or sexually oriented material. This category includes nudity, soft and hard-core pornography, sadomasochism, bestiality, child porn, fetishes, stories, adult magazines, toys, or any sexual related purchase.

This category excludes sex education sites.

Examples:

Playboy – <http://www.playboy.com>

Hustler – <http://www.hustler.com>

Free Porn Pictures and Movies - <http://www.pichunter.com/>

Adult Directory - <http://www.sex.com/>

Free Porn Finder - <http://www.1freepornfinder.com/>

Key Words

Sex, Porn, Pornography, Adult, Gay Sex, Free Gay Sex, Sex Video, Gay Porn, Gay Bear, Porn Star, Asian Sex, Latina Sex, Sex Pic, Porn Pic, Adult Sex, Adult Sex Directory, Classic Sex, Erotic, Manga Sex, Hentai Sex, Erotic Comics, Live Sex, Asian Sex, Ebony Sex, Transsexual Sex, Blow Jobs, Hand Jobs, Anal Sex, Amateur, xxx, Escorts, Adult Entertainers, Strippers, Phone Sex, Sex Contacts, Fetish, Bondage, Lap Dancing, BDSM, Porn Movies, Celebrity Porn, Erotic Stories, Sex Stories, Cock, Dick, Pussy, Interracial

Note: Categories 9 and 23 contain what we will later call "Non-Butler material"

Some important Post-Butler cases

- *R v Sharpe* (S.C.C. 2001)
 - *Little Sisters Book and Art Emporium v Canada* (S.C.C. 2000)
 - *R v Glad Day Bookshops* (2004, Ont SCJ)
-

Little Sisters Book and Art Emporium v Canada (2000)

- Customs Tariff Act prohibits importation of obscene materials into Canada and authorizes
- G-L Bookstore challenged provisions of Act as well as discriminatory treatment of G-L materials.
- Claim that the Butler test (which uses a single community standard) is discriminatory was rejected
- While the majority (6-3) rejected claim that the Butler test is unconstitutional in its treatment of G-L erotica, the court agreed that the administrative failures in applying the act were sufficient to grant relief and additional guidelines were established (dispute iss ongoing)

Little Sisters Book and Art Emporium v Canada (2000)

- More info about the ongoing controversy is at their website <http://www.littlesistersbookstore.com>
- Site was originally classified by Netsweeper as (23) pornography so would have been blocked at LPL in 2007-08)
- The 23 rating applied to text-only pages in the case archive as well as some of the more picturesque product descriptions in the catalog (tested September 17, 2007 at <http://www.netsweeper.com/Support/Test%20A%20Site>)



- PRODUCTS
- LIBRARY
- SUPPORT
- COMPANY

- HOME
- BUSINESS
- EDUCATION
- GOVERNMENT
- ISP
- DEVELOPERS

Navigate

SUPPORT

- [Test A Site](#)
- [Manuals/Release Notes](#)
- [Netsweeper Desktop Filter](#)
- « [Support Home](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Test A Site

[Back](#)

Legend	
	Category result okay
	Content is being scanned, refresh
	Access Denied to CNS API

Result	URL	Category
	http://www.littlesistersbookstore.com/	Arts & Culture [2] Pornography [23]

[Back](#)

Case Studies

[Prince George's County Public Schools](#)

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) knew exactly what they required in a filter and had established a very clear set of filtering goals.

- [print this page](#)
- [email this page](#)

REQUEST DOWNLOAD

[Download Now!](#)

This website has since been reclassified

[rotten](#) > [Library](#) > [Crime](#) > [Prison](#) > Abu Ghraib

ABU GHRAIB

AKA ABU GHURAYB, ABU GRHAIB

The White House really wants you to know all about the atrocities that happened at Abu Ghraib... all of the ones that happened before 2003.

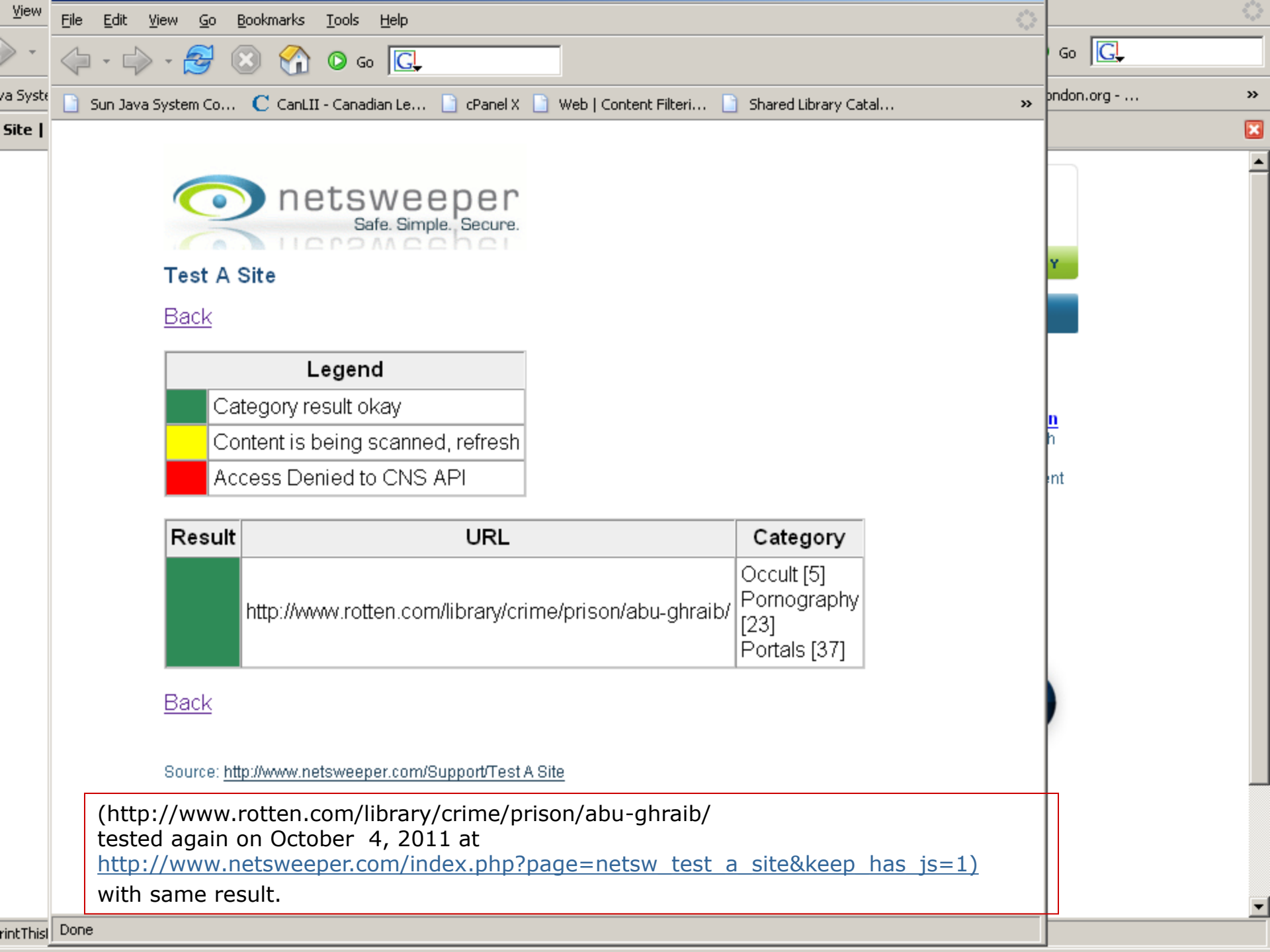
The White House's Web site features a charming little page called *Tales of Saddam's Brutality*. Posted in September 2003, the idea behind the page was simple: Overwhelm people with visceral stories of evil [Saddam Hussein](#), in order to prop up an increasingly unpopular invasion of [Iraq](#) that was originally based on the idea that Saddam was hoarding [weapons of mass destruction](#).

By fall 2003, it was starting to look like those weapons were never going to show up, so the [Bush administration](#) began unsubtly revising history to reflect the fact that the U.S. went into Iraq to get rid of "a bad man."

After all, no one in George Bush's America would dare suggest that the Iraqi people weren't better off with Saddam out of the way. And Saddam [and Sons](#) were indeed pretty atrocious, in the strictly literal sense of authoring atrocities.




Indeed, the evidence was all there, in the Tales. Perhaps they finally learned their lesson about taking information from the





Test A Site

[Back](#)

Legend	
	Category result okay
	Content is being scanned, refresh
	Access Denied to CNS API

Result	URL	Category
	http://www.rotten.com/library/crime/prison/abu-ghraib/	Occult [5] Pornography [23] Portals [37]

[Back](#)

Source: <http://www.netsweeper.com/Support/Test A Site>

(<http://www.rotten.com/library/crime/prison/abu-ghraib/> tested again on October 4, 2011 at http://www.netsweeper.com/index.php?page=netstw_test_a_site&keep_has_js=1) with same result.