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Public Access to Poynter Library Collections and Services (April 2014) : NPML Guideline--008

Nelson Poynter Memorial Library.

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Subject: *Public Access to Poynter Library Collections and Services*

Functional Area: *Library Administration*

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I. INTRODUCTION (Purpose and Intent)

The University of South Florida St. Petersburg, as a member of the USF System, is part of the [State University System of Florida](#). Like all other universities in the State University System, USFSP is known as a state-funded public university. This causes confusion sometimes surrounding the notion that the Poynter Library is a "public library."

The Poynter Library is not a public library. City and county-wide public libraries derive their funding entirely from public money, including city and county property taxes, and are designated explicitly to serve residents of those cities or counties. The general public (i.e. those people who are not taking credit courses at USFSP or USF and who are not USF/USFSP faculty or staff) are not the client group that the Poynter Library is funded to serve.

While USFSP is a publicly funded institution, like many similar institutions around Florida and the nation, the University has experienced declining state appropriations. Students are bearing an increasing burden through tuition and fees. While a percentage of the operating budget of the university is generated from state revenues, those funds are explicitly designated to support the education of the students who are enrolled in the university and who are paying tuition.

The primary mission of the Poynter Library is to serve the students and the faculty of USF St. Petersburg and the USF System.

II. STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Poynter Library is not a public library, nor are members of the general public entitled to the same level of service as the students, faculty, and staff of USFSP or the USF System. Access to the building, the collections, and its services is provided as a courtesy to the general public, as long as they abide by our Code of Conduct. As we are able to extend courtesy services to members of the general public, we are happy to do so.

We reserve the right to remove the privilege of access to anyone who is causing a disruption or otherwise impeding the services we are paid to provide to the students, faculty, and staff of USFSP and the USF System. We also reserve the right to modify the range and extent of the courtesy services we

provide to the general public if funding and staffing resources are inadequate to continue providing them.

III. EXPLANATION OF SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Without any fee, members of the general public are welcome to come into the building, use the facilities, attend public events, and read library materials. They may ask questions of and get assistance from library staff and librarians. However, if staff or librarians are engaged in helping students, faculty, affiliated borrowers or staff, they may be unavailable to provide assistance to members of the general public.

Members of the general public may access the library's web site and free services contained therein at: <http://lib.usfsp.edu> . Some resources linked from the web site may only be accessible to individuals having a USF NetID.

Members of the general public may access the Library's growing collection of digital resources available 24/7 from anywhere in the world through the USFSP Digital Archive at: <http://dspace.nelson.usf.edu>

For a donation of \$50 a year (subject to change without notice), members of the public may receive a "public borrower" card which entitles them to check out a total of five books from our on-site collections, as long as they abide by our posted rules for borrowing library materials. Additionally, fee-based copying is available at a fixed cost per page.

IV. LIMITATIONS

While members of the public may bring in their own laptops or mobile devices, they may be unable to access the Library's wireless network due to USF System policy or technical limitations.

No Library computers are available for use by members of the general public. Because the printers are networked printers connected to Library computers, no printing services are available for the general public.

Group study rooms and the Assistive Technology Room may not be used by members of the general public.

Authorized by:

**Dean of Library
Library Leadership Team**