



David L. Rice Library

Policy on Children in the Library

Introduction

In order to maintain a safe and pleasant environment for work and study, the David L. Rice Library adopts the policy below concerning children in the library. To ensure the safety of all patrons and employees in the building and to facilitate the pursuit of its education and research missions, we ask that children under the age of 16 not be left unattended in the building. The David L. Rice Library is open for use by USI students, faculty, and staff, and by adult members of the public in accordance with USI policies and procedures. A child left in the library may become bored, frightened, ill, lost, or injured, and could encounter a variety of strangers. Parents or guardians are responsible for the safety and security of children. Library staff do not have the time or expertise needed to supervise children in the building and cannot act as substitutes for parents.

Policy

For the purposes of this policy, “child” and “children” are defined as people under the age of 16.

1. Children in the Library should be supervised by a parent or guardian. This includes the children of USI employees and students. While in the Library, children are expected to follow the same behavior rules as other patrons.
<http://www.usi.edu/library/policies.asp>
2. If a child is in the library with an adult but is behaving inappropriately, library staff will inform the adult that the child should be supervised. If requested, the adult will be given a copy of this Policy on Children in the Library.
3. Children are not allowed to use Library computers without the direct and immediate supervision of a parent or guardian. Exceptions may be made, for example, for organized library visits by local high school classes. All patrons using library computers are bound by the guidelines set forth by the USI Computer Center.
4. If an unattended child is found in the library, staff will attempt to contact the child's parent or guardian and arrange for the child to be picked up or supervised. If this is not possible, staff will contact Security to attend to the child.
5. If an unattended child becomes ill, injured, or involved in an incident, staff will attempt to contact a parent or guardian. If immediate action is required, staff will follow established University emergency procedures.

Library policies can be found online at <http://www.usi.edu/library/policies.asp>

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