

## **Computer Games in Leeds Libraries.**

Leeds Library and Information Service provides access to computer games in all of its libraries. Some of the most frequently asked questions about computer games in libraries are answered below.

### **Aren't computer games disruptive to other users of the library?**

We don't think so. The noise from the games can be minimised by using headphones on the computers. We expect all library users to behave reasonably and not be disruptive to other users. And we want to encourage all of our users, including young people playing computer games, to enjoy their library experience.

### **Shouldn't libraries be encouraging young people to read books or do their homework rather than play games?**

We do that too! Many libraries in Leeds have Family Reading Groups or Homework Support. Every year, the Summer Reading Challenge encourages hundreds of young people to discover the joy of books. We want to provide opportunities for young people to enjoy themselves in a safe environment. Offering computer games in libraries is another way for us to do that.

### **So, what computer games are available in Leeds Libraries?**

Most of the games on library computers are online games. We review these games regularly to add new ones or remove old ones.

### **Do all libraries in Leeds have exactly the same games available?**

All libraries have the same list of links to online games. We are always looking for ways to provide new games and where this costs money, we might have to limit the number of libraries where these games are available. When this happens, we will try to make sure that these games are available in at least one library in every area of the city. Also, some libraries still have some games on CD-ROM that might not be available elsewhere.

### **Why don't libraries have the latest computer games on CD-ROM?**

We do have some games on CD-ROM in some libraries, but we found that our computers didn't always meet the technical requirements necessary to play the latest games. Some of these games could only be played on one computer at a time, which meant that people were having to wait for a particular game or a particular computer to become available. For these reasons, we have decided not to buy any more computer games on CD-ROM.

### **How much time can someone spend on the computer playing games? What if someone wants the computer for something else?**

Anyone can use a library computer for up to two hours a day, as long as they are following the rules in the Libraries' policy for Acceptable Computer Use. If no one is waiting to use the computer, the two hours can be extended by a member of staff. In response to local need, some libraries have reduced this two hour limit for everyone. Please ask a member of staff if you want to check the time limit in your library. Computers can be booked up to a week in advance using our on-line booking system:

<http://librarybookings.leedslearning.net>

**Are there any age restrictions on who can play games in the libraries?**

No. Anyone can play computer games in the library. Links to the online games can be found on the desktop of every library computer.

**So anyone can play any game, however old they are?**

Not quite. We have arranged the links by Keystage, and all library computers have filtering software. This means that some games designed for older children or young adults cannot be accessed by younger children.

**What if I notice someone playing a game which I think is inappropriate?**

Please speak to a member of staff. We have a system for reviewing and blocking inappropriate games.

**What if I find a really good online game and want to recommend it?**

We regularly consult young people as to what games they want to see in libraries. If you would like to recommend an online game, please send an e-mail to the Information Librarian, using the address on the right-hand side of this page. We can't promise that we'll be able to act on every suggestion, but we aim to provide the best service that we can with the resources that we have.

**Can people bring their own computer games into the library and play them on the library computers?**

No. If we allowed people to bring in their own games, we couldn't make sure that those games met the requirements of these Guidelines. We need to be sure that the games people play in libraries will work on our computers. We need to be sure that the games are suitable for the people playing them. And we need to be sure the license agreement lets us use the game in a library. We couldn't do any of this if we allowed people to use library computers to play their own games.

**Can people borrow computer games from the library?**

Not at the moment. But this is something we are looking at to see if we should offer this service in future.