City of Vincent Library and Local History Centre, WA

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eSmart Working Group

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Where are you at in your eSmart Libraries journey?

We are currently assessing our existing policies and procedures to see how we can improve them to better ensure the online safety and knowledge of our community. We're sort of hovering between planning and implementing!

What have been the most challenging aspects of your eSmart Libraries journey so far?

Finding the time to do a thorough job of policy revision and writing in addition to all our general library duties. We're lucky in that there are eSmart Accredited libraries out there with brilliant examples of how to go about doing things, which I think has made the whole process less intimidating for us.

How does eSmart Libraries fit in with the day-to-day processes already in place at your library?

eSmart Libraries slots in very comfortably with the day-to-day processes we already have in place. For us, it is more about strengthening those processes and increasing our community's eSmart knowledge. We have an after school Minecraft Club that uses the library and having spoken to their organisers, we have already hosted a Cyber Safety information session for parents which went really well.

What advice did you provide to the community on how to manage cybersafety prior to implementing eSmart?

The advice and information we provided to the community was quite limited. Mostly fliers, posters and answering individual questions from patrons who approached staff.

Do you feel eSmart will benefit members of the community who do not have access to digital technologies at home?

Definitely. One of our main goals is to increase staff knowledge so that we are able to comfortably assist community members who have limited experience with digital technologies. We are also looking at running regular workshops and information sessions about basic computer use as well as on cyber safety topics. This is something that the Community Development team of our council has already started and we will sustain it going forward.

What do you believe are or will be the benefits of implementing eSmart Libraries?

A more empowered community in regards to digital technologies and cyber safety issues, meaning more members can confidently engage with online materials and resources. With a lot of services and forms moving to being only available online, eSmart Libraries assists with upholding the inclusion of all demographics of the local population.