

Smith Public Library

**FINE FREE
INFORMATION**



\$ Why fine? \$

- **As a motivator to return items on time.**
- **Patrons think the library is getting those funds, therefore they are supporting the library.**

The Reality of fines

- **Fines affect families and economically disadvantaged patrons most.**
- **Instead of encouraging them to return the items, those late items do not come back at all for fear of fines.**
- **Reduced use of the library because of fines on accounts.**

What fines cost the library.

- **Staff time/stress**
- **Lost items**
- **Inferior customer service creating a combative atmosphere**
- **Lessens library use**
- **Loss in materials**



Fine free is all around us

North Texas Fine Free Libraries			
Addison	Dallas	Grapevine	Richardson
Arlington	Denton	Howe	Richland Hills
Aubrey	Desoto	Irving	Rowlette
Bedford	Duncancville	Keller	Royce City
Benbrook	Eules	Kennedale	Sachse
Burleson	Flower Mound	Lewisville	Saginaw
Carrollton	Forest Hill	McKinney	Sanger
Cedar Hill	Fort Worth	Mesquite	Sherman
Colony	Frisco	Minteral Wells	Southlake
Coppell	Garland	Plano	Weatherford



Define fine free

Going fine free would mean eliminating late fees. This would not affect damaged or lost item fees. If there's a barcode or spine label missing, then a patron would be charged a replacement fee for those components.

The only thing they would not be charged for is returning items past the due date. They would not be allowed to borrow any other items until all the past due items have been returned. This is commonly referred to as the "old Netflix model" when you had to mail back a DVD before obtaining the next one.



Breakdown of the numbers

Amounts Tendered	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024 - 3 quarters
Printing (3D & Paper)	\$6,015.41	\$6,774.09	\$6,712.16	\$8,532.78	\$6,313.47
Circulation Fees (Card replacement, processing)	\$912.21	\$1,065.60	\$1,275.01	\$1,254.30	\$988.79
Damaged & Lost Items	\$6,440.42	\$8,744.50	\$8,563.41	\$10,141.95	\$7,271.93
Meeting Room Rentals	\$625.00	\$922.50	\$165.00	\$1,455.00	\$930.00
Overdue items	\$20,673.02	\$17,808.78	\$14,863.40	\$15,152.38	\$12,536.80
Overall Totals:	\$34,666.06	\$35,315.47	\$31,578.98	\$36,536.41	\$28,040.99
All fines and fees except Overdue Items	\$13,993.04	\$17,506.69	\$16,715.58	\$21,384.03	\$15,504.19
Overdue items	\$20,673.02	\$17,808.78	\$14,863.40	\$15,152.38	\$12,536.80

The City takes in on average \$4 million dollars in fees across all departments. Using an average of the overall totals for library fees, the total contributed by the library would equal .875%. Overdue items alone equal only .4265% of total City fees.

How would this work?

- **An ammendment to the City Ordinance would be required to eliminate late fines. This would have to be presented to City Council and would require their approval.**
- **Begin by doing a period of amnesty to encourage people to bring their items back with no penalties prior to the policy change.**
- **Set a date and eliminate fines beginning with that date.**





Questions?

- **Any questions over what was presented?**
- **What other info would you like to see?**
- **Are there any issues that you say that have not been brought up?**