

Help Stop S.F. Public Library's *Unauthorized*

# \$115 Lost-book Fee

## *Supervisors to Vote 7-15-08*

San Francisco's Public Library has been charging patrons \$115 for a lost or damaged book, if it was obtained from another library system using SFPL's LINK+ system.\*

Note: The library has said it lets patrons pay a lower replacement fee, if -- that's a big if -- the owning library authorizes it. *But the \$115 fee may still be collected at the owning library's option, even if replacement/repair actually costs much less.*

Now the Library wants the Board of Supervisors to approve this \$115 fee -- and a dozen others, all installed without authorization. The Board votes on Library Fees July 15.

Sups. Ross Mirkarimi and Chris Daly opposed this legislation in committee. Thank you!

The proposed legislation creates barriers to access, and is

**UNJUSTIFIABLE**

**UNNECESSARY** -- long-used inter-library loan works well

**REGRESSIVE** -- hurts poorest people the most

## The proposed legislation would authorize these fees:

- **\$115 for a lost or damaged book, if it was obtained by the patron from another library using the library's "LINK+" system.**\* In contrast, the Library's long-time policy for its own lost books is to allow replacement, or payment of replacement cost plus a \$5 processing fee. Policy for books lost from other library systems has been to follow the owning library's policy -- usually similar to San Francisco Public Library's. Patrons may no longer use traditional inter-library loan when a book is available via LINK+ -- there is no choice.
- **\$20 to scan a photograph.** By comparison, the cost for a photograph of a photo remains \$1. Note the fee is \$15 for a previously-scanned photo.
- **Eleven charges related to free use of community meeting rooms,** such as \$30 per hour for a Powerpoint presentation, and \$30 to use a microphone.

## Here's What You Can Do:

### 1. Write Board of Supervisors before 7-15 (email: [Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org](mailto:Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org))

1. Ask them to reject the legislation authorizing these fees, "File No. 080749."
2. Ask them to stop the Library charging and posting unauthorized fees.

### 2. Forward a copy to Library Users Association. We can also answer questions:

*Libraryusers2004@yahoo.com ... P.O.B 170544, San Francisco, CA 94117-0544 ... 415/753-2180*

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\* LINK+ is a for-profit vendor's system to obtain books from 49 libraries. By contrast, traditional inter-library loan (ILL) is non-profit, co-operatively run, and can access *thousands* of libraries -- with *millions more* books. LINK+ benefits are said to be automating patron requests and quicker delivery than ILL.