

# Age-Protection in a Nutshell

Age-protection allows libraries to specify a period of time starting from the item's *create date* during which the *pickup* library must be the *owning* library in order for a new item to fill a hold. This allows local patrons an opportunity to place holds before it transits to fill a hold at another library.

[Age-protection](#) automatically expires at the end of the period (two months) and the item may then fill holds elsewhere. There is no need to remove age-protection from the item record after it expires; however, active age protection may be intentionally removed (unset) to allow the item to transit freely to other libraries.

## What item types may be age-protected

Existing OWWL policy allows all libraries to age-protect new video **DVDs**. The OWWL Advisory Committee (OWWLAC) recently expanded age-protection to include new **Music CDs** and **Adult and Young Adult Fiction (books only)**. At the discretion of the library director, it may be applied to:

- particular items (for example, high-demand items or one or more copies of multiple copy purchases)
- one or more selected item types, such as all new Music CDs and Video DVDs.

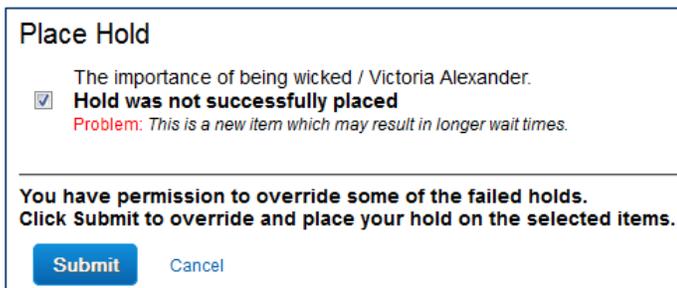
Also, libraries are under no obligation to use age-protection.

## How to age-protect items

Age-protection is set at the item level on the Item Attributes screen using the [Copy Editor](#) (see partial screenshot at right). The attribute also may be saved to cataloging [templates](#) and applied automatically.

## Issues affecting patrons

If all copies of an item are age-protected (i.e., their age-protect status is *Active*), patrons



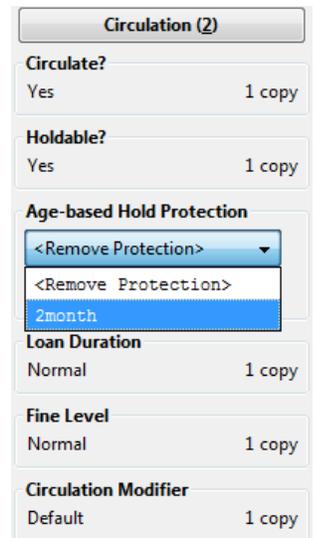
who attempt to place a hold on the item for pickup *at a non-owning library* will receive the message shown to the left. Patrons have a choice of foregoing the hold or waiting the *extra* time, the length of which will depend on when the

hold was placed, the expiration of hold protections, and the subsequent availability of non-protected copies added to collections.

One way to bypass the hold restriction is for the patron to specify an *owning library* as the pickup library, assuming that the patron is willing to travel to the library when the item is ready for pickup.

## Considerations

Age-protection is designed to keep new items at the owning library where they will fill local holds first and allow the library to build a local hold list. This may be more efficient in that it reduces item "down" time spent in-transit and on the hold shelf. However, some items may not benefit from age-protection, which, in some instances, may unnecessarily limit access for patrons at other libraries, inhibit use, and reduce circulation.



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