

Statement from Selena Fox & Robert Paxton, Lady Liberty League Internet Freedom Task Force, Circle Sanctuary:

The Salem, Missouri Public Library's mission statement admirably claims that they are "an advocate of intellectual freedom for the community by providing free and equal access to information." In view of this, we are disappointed in their unwillingness to provide free and equal access to websites containing information on religions such as Wicca, Paganism, Native American traditional ways, and other paths that honor Nature.

By refusing to unblock Nature religions websites, this library and its staff place themselves in the company of governments such as Yemen and Qatar, which have been criticized by international observers for using the same company's content-filtering software to impair free inquiry based on religion.

It is our hope that this case increases public awareness of this need for equality -- and that it can bring about fair and equal treatment for accessing information about religion and spirituality of many paths not only at the Salem, Missouri Public Library, but at public libraries across the United States and around the world.