

# Age Protection

Age Protection allows libraries to prevent holds on new books (on a copy by copy basis) from outside the owning library's branch or system for a designated amount of time. This gives the library's local patrons a chance to check out the new book before making it available for holds to other libraries. Libraries typically use this feature for popular fiction, but may also choose to use it for any or all other new books.

Age protection is counted from the item active date. Item create date is not necessarily the same as the item active date. Items are set to active when they are placed in statuses Available, Checked out, ILL, On holds shelf, On reservation shelf, Reserves, or Reshelving. In process or on order statuses do not make the item active but may be the status when the item is created.

Each item (copy) has an age\_protect flag which may be set to 3 month, 6 month, or None:

- If set to 3 month and the copy was active less than 3 months ago, the item is only holdable by patrons whose home library matches the circulating library of the copy. (Note: The system interprets 3 months as 90 days.) After 3 months, the item will automatically roll over to 6 month age protection.
- If 6 month is set and the item active date less than 6 months old, the item is only holdable by patrons whose home library is within the same system as the circulating library of the item. (Note: The system interprets 6 months as 180 days.) After 6 months is over, the item will no longer be age protected and holds may be placed on it from any PINES location, but the age\_protect flag will still appear as 6 month.
- If age protect is set to None, then no age protection occurs and the holds can be placed on the item from any PINES location at the time the copy is made active.

From:

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Last update: **2018/10/11 20:15**

