

Internet Safety Policy

Introduction

All users of the Internet shall use it in a responsible manner, consistent with the educational, recreational, business, and informational purposes for which it is provided. These regulations apply to any computing device connected to the Internet via the library's Internet connections, including, when practicable, non-library-owned computing devices.

Prohibited Uses (See Definitions, below)

1. Viewing, sending, receiving, printing, distributing, or displaying visual depictions that are obscene.
2. Viewing, sending, receiving, printing, distributing, or displaying visual depictions that are child pornography.
3. If a minor; or in the presence of minors; or in communicating with minors: viewing, sending, receiving, printing, distributing, or displaying visual depictions that are harmful to minors.
4. Misrepresenting oneself, for fraudulent or illegal purposes, as another user.
5. Unauthorized attempts to modify or gain access to files, passwords, or data belonging to others.
6. Transmitting threatening or harassing material.
7. Engaging in any activity that is deliberately offensive or creates an intimidating or hostile environment.
8. Dissemination of an adult's personal identification information without the adult's permission. Dissemination of a minor's personal identification information without the minor's parent's or guardian's permission.
9. Seeking unauthorized access to any computer system.
10. Making changes to the setup or configuration of the software or hardware.
11. Unauthorized altering of software components of any computer, network, or database.
12. Making unauthorized copies of copyrighted or licensed material in any form.
13. On library computers, using software not installed by the library.

Cautions

1. Library customers need to be aware that information on the Internet is often not verified or subject to verification.
2. Adult customers should be cautious when giving personal identification information; children should not do so without a parent's or guardian's permission.
3. The library assumes no liability for any loss or damage to customer's data or equipment or any other injury that may occur from the individual's use of the library's Internet or computer services.

Filtering

1. The library board has chosen to filter library public use Internet computers.
2. Youth department computers, located on the first floor, are filtered for content suitable for children. Filtered categories include gambling, chat rooms, pornography, obscenity, hate groups, illegal activities, etc. These computers are to be used by:
 - a. children under age 13
 - b. a parent or guardian with young child(ren) present
 - c. (infrequently) a child aged 13-15 whose parent or guardian has restricted the child's Internet privileges to the Youth Dept.
3. Adult department computers, located on the second floor, are filtered for obscenity and for child pornography. They are to be used by customers aged 13 and over, except for customers aged 13-15 who are restricted by a parent or guardian. A parent or guardian may not restrict Internet access of a child aged 16 and over.
4. No filter is 100% effective in that there is both under filtering (some sites that should be blocked get through) and over filtering (some sites that should not get blocked are blocked). Customers who

believe that a site falls in either category should inform desk staff, who will attempt to rectify the situation. Because the filtering is done off-site, a remedy may not be immediate.

5. Because of the inherent imperfections of filters, a parent or guardian who wishes to completely control what a child sees on the Internet must be with that child when the child uses the Internet.

Internet use by children under age 16

1. Children under the age of 16 should have parental permission to use the Internet. Responsibility for what these children read or see on the Internet rests with the child's parent or guardian. Parents may wish to read the guidelines for *Child Safety on the Information Highway* (available at the Adult Services and Youth Services desks) produced by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.
2. It is not possible for library staff to control all information children may locate on the Internet. Just as the library does not vouch for or endorse viewpoints of written material in its collections, it does not do so for the Internet. The library's Materials Selection Policy does not apply to the Internet.
3. Filtering information—please see the above section, "Filtering."

Notice to minors

Minors:

1. Must follow all of the rules in this policy.
2. Must be extremely careful when using e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and any other form of electronic communication. Minors must not:
 - a. Use their real names (use an alias instead).
 - b. Give out their address, telephone number, city or area they live in, school they attend, etc., to any person on the Internet without a parent's or guardian's permission.
 - c. Agree to meet with anyone contacted over the Internet without a parent or guardian present.
 - d. Disclose personnel identification information of any other person.

Staff monitoring

Library staff have the right to monitor Internet use for compliance with this policy.

Penalty for misuse

Misuse of the Internet will result in suspension of access to it.

Remedy

Any person may appeal that suspension to the library board at a regular meeting with fifteen days advance written notice to the library director.

Definitions

Obscenity

Whether the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest; whether the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by law; and whether the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

Child pornography

Any visual depiction, or any images that appear to be visual depictions, of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct, which includes actual or simulated sexual intercourse, bestiality, masturbation, sadistic or masochistic abuse, or lascivious exhibition of the genitals or pubic area.

Visual depictions that are harmful to minors

Any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

1. taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to the prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;

2. depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sex acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and,
3. taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors.

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