



Section 8: Library Service Policies

8I | Computer and Internet Use

Purpose & Scope

The purpose of this policy is to clearly communicate the Library's expectations for the safe and effective use of its technology resources, including: all Library-owned or leased hardware, software, and networks accessed on Library premises with or without Library-owned or leased equipment; as well as those loaned by the Library to its users. Use of any Library equipment or network constitutes acceptance of this policy.

Under no circumstances will library equipment or networks be utilized by any person, including minors, to: conduct unlawful acts, including but not limited to: discrimination or harassment; transmit threatening, harmful, exploitative or obscene material; propagate ransomware, malware, or viruses; or disrupt the peaceful use and operation of the Library by patrons and employees.

This policy complies with, and fulfills the requirements of, the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

User Responsibility

All users of library equipment and networks are responsible for adhering to applicable federal, state, and local laws governing technology resources. Parents/guardians/caregivers are responsible for monitoring the use of Library equipment and networks by minors at all times. Users are also responsible for adhering to all applicable laws, policies, and procedures as they relate to use of Library resources and spaces, including the Patron Conduct Policy and the Social Media Policy

All users of library equipment and networks are required to refrain from activities like pirating, torrenting, and person-to-person sharing (P2P). Engaging in these activities can result in the user being blocked from further use of the Library's equipment and networks.

Adopted: 5/13/98

Latest Revision: 5/11/22

Previous Revisions/Reviews: 2/13/19, 8/8/12, 10/20/10, 2/10/10, 12/13/06, 2/11/04, 11/10/99

Filtering and Use by Minors

In compliance with the federally mandated provisions of the CIPA the Library employs technology protection measures (filters) on all of its computer stations and laptops to block access to material deemed inappropriate for minors. Specifically, as required by the CIPA, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed be (a) obscene, (b) child sexual abuse material, or (c) harmful to minors. Any person aged eighteen (18) and older may request the filtering software be disabled for the specific station or device on which they are accessing the Internet, if it is for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

To the extent practicable, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users, including minor users, of Library access to electronic information, services, and networks when using e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, video messaging, and other forms of electronic communications. Under no circumstances is unauthorized access, including hacking, or other unlawful activities allowed by minors when using library equipment and networks.

Parents, guardians, and caregivers are responsible for closely monitoring the use of the Internet by the minor children/wards and are encouraged to maintain open communication about the content their minor children/wards access on the Internet and other web-based networks.

Resources Available via the Internet and Other Networks

The Library does not monitor, and has no control over, the information accessed through resources like the Internet and is not responsible for its content. Though filters are in place on all public computers, filters cannot be wholly depended upon to block all sites that contain illegal, obscene, exploitative, or sexually explicit material as defined by the CIPA or other applicable law. All users are encouraged to keep the following in mind when evaluating information obtained via the Internet and other electronic or web-based networks:

1. Information obtained via the Internet may or may not be reliable and may or may not be obtained from a reliable, authoritative, or well-meaning source.
2. Information obtained via the Internet may or may not be accurate.
3. Information obtained may or may not be current or up-to-date.

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4. Web links or URLs on the Internet may not always be valid, and particular sites on the Internet may sometimes be unavailable and this unavailability often occurs unpredictably.

The Library urges patrons to be informed consumers and to carefully evaluate information obtained via the Internet. Library staff members may be available to assist patrons in making judgments about the reliability of currency of certain types of resources, but are unable to provide definitive analysis of particular sources due to the extremely large variety and volume of information available via the Internet and other electronic or web-based networks.

Non-Compliance

Any act of non-compliance with this policy will be reported to the Executive Director, who will review each instance on a case-by-case basis in order to determine if Library privileges need to be suspended for any amount of time. For any instance involving violation of any federal, state, or local laws, a report will be made to local law enforcement.