

Emma S. Clark Memorial Library Internet Use Policy and Guidelines

This policy applies to all users of Internet access computers located within the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library building. If you have any questions about the policy or what it means, please contact a Librarian for more information.

Purpose

To fulfill our mission, the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library provides access to a broad range of information resources, including those available through the Internet. The Internet offers access to many valuable local, national and international sources of information. However, not all sources on the Internet provide accurate, complete, or current information. A good information consumer evaluates the validity of information found, as with other library materials.

Responsibility of Users

All patrons who wish to use the Library's Internet access computers must read this document and return a signature to be kept on file at the Library indicating that they accept the terms of this document. If the patron is less than 18 years, a parent or legal guardian must sign on his/her behalf. Patrons may be asked to show proof of birth and/or identification before being granted permission to access the Internet from within the Library.

Furthermore, all patrons who wish to access the Internet from within the Library must:

1. be currently registered as a patron of the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library
2. have no fines on his/her Library account in excess of \$10.00.

Supervising Children's Use

As with other library materials, parents or legal guardians are responsible for their minor children's use of the Internet. Parents should let their children know if there are materials which they do not want them to use and should supervise their child's Internet sessions.

Please be advised that some material on the Internet may contain defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, offensive, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, or illegal material. Parents of minors who allow their children to have access to the Internet from within the Library should be aware of the existence of such material and monitor usage by their children as necessary. Restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or guardian; the Library does not have the right or responsibility to act 'in loco parentis'.

The Library advises its patron against the publication of personal information on the Internet which may make them vulnerable to harassment from other Internet users. No Patron shall publish person information about others on the Internet without their approval and parental approval if the individual is under 18 years of age.

Filtering Software

The Internet is a global entity with a highly diverse user population and information content. The Library cannot protect users from materials that are inaccurate or that may be deemed offensive. However, in order to help facilitate preventing minors from having access to such material, filtering software has been installed on all Internet access computers located in the Children's Room at the Library. Filtering software is not installed on the Internet access computers located in the Adult Department at the Library. Parents or legal guardians who wish their children to have unfiltered access to the Internet may request in writing that the child use one of the Internet access computers in the Adult Department.

The Filtering software installed in the Children's Room works by blocking access to a vendor predetermined list of sites and keywords. As a result, it is possible that some sites that may not contain offensive material could be blocked by the software. Due to the diverse and dynamic nature of the Internet it is not possible to block access to all sites that may be considered objectionable. Therefore, it is possible that a child still may

gain access to an Internet site that parents may find objectionable. Parents should realize this fact before allowing their children access to the Internet.

The Library assumes no responsibility for the content of external sites on the Internet; library patrons view them at their own risk.

Rules Governing Use

Each registered patron is limited to using the Internet access computers for three hours or less per each calendar day.

Users may not:

1. Make any attempt to damage computer equipment or software.
2. Make any attempt to alter software or hardware configurations.
3. Submit, publish, or display on Library computers any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive or illegal material.
4. Make any attempt to cause degradation of system performance.
5. Use any Library Internet access computer for any illegal or criminal purpose.
6. Violate copyright laws or software licensing agreements in their use of Library Internet access computers.
7. Engage in any activity which is deliberately and maliciously offensive, libelous, or slanderous.
8. Upload or install any software onto Library computers.
9. Download any information to Library Internet access computers' hard disk or any diskette other than that which occurs during normal course of "browsing" the Web.

Violations will result in loss of access. Unlawful activities will be dealt with in a serious and appropriate manner.

Copyright

U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code) prohibits unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials, except as permitted by the principles of "fair use." Users may not copy or distribute electronic materials (including electronic mail, text, images, programs or data) without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. Responsibility for any consequences of copyright infringement lies with the user; the Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such use.

NOTICE

THE LIBRARY EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ANY LIABILITY OR RESPONSIBILITY ARISING FROM ACCESS TO OR USE OF INFORMATION OBTAINED THROUGH ITS INTERNET ACCESS COMPUTERS, OR ANY CONSEQUENCES THEREOF.