

INTERNET ACCESS POLICY

Library Provides Public Access to the Internet

The Reading Public Library recognizes the importance of electronic information sources to assist library users in finding the information they need. The Library provides resources in a wide variety of formats to meet the educational, informational, cultural, and recreational needs of its diverse community. The Library offers full access to the Internet and does not actively monitor Internet use. Current information about the Internet and instruction on the use of the Internet is available through services and programs offered by the Public Services Division.

The Library Provides Wireless Internet Access

Patrons using Library wireless access must comply with this Internet Access Policy. The wireless access is unsecured, and the patron is responsible for their own antivirus, security, and privacy protection. The Library does not encrypt data sent or received through our Internet services. Patrons are advised to exercise caution in divulging personal information through direct electronic communications, as doing so can compromise personal safety and privacy.

Control of Information Available on the Internet

The Reading Public Library cannot guarantee the accuracy, authority, or timeliness of the information available on the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. Users should carefully evaluate the information they find when using this resource.

Internet Access for Minors

The responsibility for what minors read or view on the Internet rests with a parent or caregiver. Library staff is available to assist patrons in selecting or suggesting the best mix of information resources to meet their needs.

Responsible Use of the Internet

Computers are shared resources. Patrons should limit their time on library computers while others are waiting.

Materials obtained or copied from the Internet may be subject to copyright laws and licensing agreements. It is the responsibility of the user to respect these governing rules and be responsible for the payment of fees for any fee-based service.

Unfiltered access to the Internet is compatible with the Library's endorsement of the American Library Association's (ALA) Bill of Rights, ALA's Access to Electronic Information Services and Networks, and the policies, goals, and objectives of this public Library. The staff reserve the right to end an Internet session at any time if it is creating a disturbance, as some content may be considered improper in time, place, and manner.

Accessing material that meets the legal definition of obscenity is prohibited. Minors shall not access material "harmful to minors." Blatantly offensive visual or text-based materials constitute potential sources of sexual harassment to other patrons and library staff and are not tolerated. Patrons may not use Internet access through the Reading Public Library for illegal purposes or to transmit threatening, obscene, or harassing materials.

Those who violate these rules risk having their library privileges restricted or revoked.

Adopted: September 15, 1997
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