

Middleton Public Library
INTERNET USE POLICY

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I. Purpose

- (A) The Middleton Public Library provides access to a broad range of information resources, including those available through the Internet. This connectivity and ease of service is available as part of the Library's mission to bring people of all ages together with the information they need.
- (B) The Internet offers access to ideas, information, and commentary from around the world that can be personally, professionally, and culturally enriching. However, not all resources on the Internet are accurate, complete, or up-to-date. The library assumes responsibility only for the information provided on its home page: www.midlibrary.org.
- (C) This policy applies to all computers that access the Internet on the Middleton Public Library's network, i.e., both library-owned and personal equipment.

II. Responsibilities of Users

- (A) In choosing and evaluating internet sources, users should evaluate them just as they do print materials, questioning the accuracy and completeness of the information.
- (B) Users assume all risks associated with internet searches, acknowledging that content beyond the library's homepage and supporting documents may be considered offensive.
- (C) The public library, unlike schools, does not serve "in loco parentis" and staff cannot assume responsibility for supervising minors' use of the internet. Parents or legal guardians are responsible for supervising their children's internet sessions, and for restricting access to materials they deem inappropriate for their children.

- (D) When using the library's computers or wireless networks, patrons may give out any personal information (name, address, telephone number, credit card number) at their own risk.

III. General Guidelines for Use of Internet Computers

- (A) The library's computer network is restricted to legal uses only. The Library does not pre-screen internet content and staff has no authority to determine what is constitutionally protected. The determination of what constitutes illegal content is the sole purview of the courts, as defined by federal law and State of Wisconsin statutes, specifically section 948.11. Users of all ages must abide by the restriction set forth in the following section.
- (B) Examples of unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Sending, receiving, or displaying text or graphics which may reasonably be construed by library staff as offensive to the public and inappropriate in a library setting.
 - 2. Harassment of other users or violation of their privacy.
 - 3. Libeling, slandering or maliciously offending other users.
 - 4. Violation of copyright laws or software licensing agreements.
 - 5. Attempting to crash, degrade performance of, or gain unauthorized access to the library's computer system and networks.
 - 6. Damaging equipment, software, or data belonging to the library or other users.
 - 7. Obstruction of other people's work by overuse of system resources.
- (C) The internet computer stations are available for walk-in use.
 - 1. Library staff provide workshops in the library's computer areas, and some spaces may be unavailable at times.
 - 2. Charges for printing will be determined by the Library Director and posted at each print station.
 - 3. Library staff may impose limits on use of the internet computers in order to ensure that all patrons have convenient access to this service.
 - 4. Violations may result in loss of internet or library privileges. Illegal uses of computers may also be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.
 - 5. Parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to work with their children to develop acceptable rules of internet use.

IV. Copyright

- (A) U.S. copyright law (Title 17, U.S. Code) prohibits the 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. Any responsibility for any consequences of copyright infringement lies with the user; the library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such use.

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