

INTERNET USE POLICY

The Dodgeville Public Library provides access to a broad range of information resources, including those available through the Internet, a vast collection of computer networks linking thousands of independent networks on a global scale. We make this service available as part of our mission to provide for the educational, informational, and recreational needs of the Dodgeville area.

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. We do not monitor, have no control over, and do not accept responsibility for material on the Internet.

This policy applies to all computers that access the Internet on Dodgeville Public Library's network, i.e., both library-owned and personal equipment.

Responsibility of Users

- In choosing and evaluating Internet sources, users should evaluate them just as they do print materials, questioning the accuracy and completeness of the information.
- Users must search the Internet at their own risk, realizing that they may encounter material they find offensive.
- In supervising children's use of the Internet, parents or legal guardians must assume the responsibility for deciding what materials are appropriate for their children. The public library, unlike schools, does not serve *in loco parentis*. Library staff cannot act in the place of parents in providing constant care and supervision of children as they explore the Internet.
- Restrictions of a child's access to the Internet is the parents' or guardians' responsibility. Parents or guardians are responsible for supervising their children's Internet sessions and for letting their children know if there are materials they do not want them to use.
- When using Library computers, patron should never give out personal information (name, address, telephone number, credit card information, etc.).

General Use Guidelines for use of Internet Computers

- The primary purpose of the Library's Internet computer stations is to supplement its print and electronic collections of informational and recreational materials.
- The Library's computer network may only be used for legal purposes. Users of all ages must abide by the restrictions set forth in the following section. Examples of unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to:
 - Sending, receiving, or displaying text or graphics which may reasonably be construed by Library staff as pornographic or offensive to the public and inappropriate in a library setting.
 - Harassment of other users or violation of their privacy.

- Libeling, slandering, or maliciously offending other users.
 - Violation of copyright laws or software licensing agreements
 - Attempting to crash, degrade performance of, or gain unauthorized access to the Library's computer system and networks
 - Damaging equipment, software, or data belonging to the Library and other users.
 - Obstruction of other people's work by overuse of system resources.
- Violations may result in loss of Internet privileges. Illegal use of computers may also be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.

Measures Designed to Restrict Minors' Access to Harmful Materials

The Library does not select the material on the Internet and has no means or statutory authority to assure that only constitutionally protected materials are available on the Internet. The authority to determine what is illegal rests with the courts as defined in Wisconsin and federal statutes. (See specifically Sec. 948.11 of the Wisconsin State Statutes.)

Parents and legal guardians are strongly encouraged to work with their children to develop acceptable rules of Internet use.

Scheduling and Use of Internet Computer Stations

- Library staff may impose daily and weekly limits on use of the Internet computers in order to ensure that all patrons have convenient access to this service.
- Internet computer stations are available for walk-in use.
- Youth under the age of 18 must present a library card with a computer sticker on it to a staff member before using an Internet computer station. Only youth who present such a library card will be allowed to use the Internet.
- Charges for printing will be determined by Library staff and posted at each Internet computer station.

Copyright

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