

New Port Richey Public Library Internet Acceptable Use Policy

Introduction

The New Port Richey Public Library provides direct access to the Internet to help support the independent education of individuals, in accordance with the Library's overall mission. The Internet vastly increases the variety of resources available to Library users. The same standards of intellectual freedom, privacy, and confidentiality endorsed for traditional resources and services also apply to the Internet. In accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the Library utilizes technology protection measures (Internet filters) on all computers and the wireless network to protect against access to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors. The Library's policies governing the purchase of resources are not applicable to resources accessed electronically.

The Library does not endorse the viewpoints or vouch for the accuracy of information obtained through the Internet. Library members use the Internet and electronic databases at their own risk. The Library assumes no responsibility, and will have no liability for any direct, indirect, or consequential damages arising from the use of its database server or from the use of its electronic resources or those obtained via the Internet.

User Responsibility

Users are encouraged to evaluate the validity and appropriateness of information accessed via the Internet. While the Library employs technology protection measures as required by law, no filtering software is 100% effective. Each individual user must accept responsibility for choosing which electronic resources they will access. Since the Internet is not secure, each user accepts personal and financial responsibility for information transmitted or received.

Children's Access and Internet Safety

The Library is committed to the safety of minors using our resources. In compliance with CIPA, the Library's technology protection measures are active during any use of the network by minors. For the purposes of this policy, a minor is defined as any person under the age of 17. The Library does not have the right or responsibility to act in the place of the parent (in loco parentis). As with all Library resources, any restriction of a child's access to the Internet beyond the required legal filters is the sole responsibility of the parent or legal guardian. The Library urges parents or guardians to supervise their children's Internet sessions and to educate them regarding:

- Safety and Security: Caution should be exercised when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications.
- Personal Information: Minors should be wary of the unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information.
- Inappropriate Content: Awareness of materials that are "harmful to minors" or otherwise inappropriate for their age level.

Disabling of Technology Protection Measures

In accordance with federal law, an authorized Library staff member may disable the technology protection measure for any adult user (aged 17 or older) to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes. Staff will not disable filters for minors.

Acceptable Use

All users are expected to use these resources in a responsible manner, consistent with the educational and informational purposes for which they are provided. It is unacceptable to use the Library's computer systems and Internet resources for any purposes that violate the law or library policies.

The following is a list of unacceptable uses:

- Viewing material that violates federal, state, or local laws or regulations, including those regarding accessing, viewing, printing, and distributing obscenity or child pornography.
- Sending, receiving, or displaying text or graphics containing depictions of sex or extreme violence.
- Engaging in any activity which is deliberately and maliciously offensive, libelous or slanderous, or which creates an intimidating or hostile environment.
- Violating another user's privacy.
- Engaging in "hacking" or any other unlawful activities intended to gain unauthorized access to the Library's internal network or any other restricted computer system.
- Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.
- Using computer accounts, access codes, or network identification numbers without authorized permission.
- Attempting in any way to alter, damage, abuse, or sabotage computer hardware or software; alter configurations; or install any software.
- Violating copyright laws or licensing agreements pertaining to software, files, or other resources obtained electronically.

- Disrupting or interfering with network users or services. Such interference or disruption includes, but is not limited to: distribution of unsolicited advertising, harassment of others, propagation of computer worms or viruses, randomly initiating interactive electronic communications, or overuse of interactive network utilities

Anyone who violates this Internet Acceptable Use Policy will have Internet privileges automatically suspended for a minimum of 30 days. Serious violations may result in criminal trespass and/or arrest.