Public Access Internet Policy

The Internet, as an information resource, enables the Library to provide information beyond the confines of its own collection. Making the Internet accessible to the public is compatible with the Library's mission statement since the Internet does allow access to ideas, information and commentary from around the globe. However, the **Dwight Foster Public Library** has no control over these resources nor does the library have complete knowledge of what is on the Internet. Information on the Internet may be reliable and current or it may be inaccurate, out-of-date, or unavailable at times. Some content may be offensive or illegal.

It is not possible for the library to review and protect patrons from all such information; therefore, patrons must exercise their responsibility as discriminating information consumers by constantly questioning the validity and appropriateness of the information they find. By accessing the Internet through the library, patrons agree that the library will not be responsible for any indirect, consequential, special, or punitive damages or losses which may arise in connection with such use.

As is the case with other library materials, it is the responsibility of a child's parent or legal guardian to determine and monitor their children's use of library materials and resources, including use of the Internet. Juveniles do not need special permission to use the Internet computers in the library.

Staff will assist patrons with Internet use as time permits but cannot necessarily offer individual personal instruction on a walk-in basis. For more than a 5-minute introduction to our computers, it is strongly suggested that patrons call ahead for an appointment.

By using the public Internet workstation(s) at the Dwight Foster Public Library all users agree to the following acceptable use guidelines:

- All users of electronic information resources such as the Internet are expected to use these resources in a responsible manner, consistent with the educational and informational purposes for which they are provided and to follow all rules and regulations set forth by the Library.

- No one may use the Internet for illegal or unethical purposes.

- No one may misrepresent oneself as another user or attempt to modify or gain unauthorized access to files, passwords, computer systems or data belongs to others. No one may damage or alter software components of any network or database.

- No one may deliberately propagate computer worms or viruses.
- Users may make only authorized copies of copyrighted or licensed software or data.
- No one may send, receive, or display graphic materials depicting full nudity and/or sexual acts which are portrayed obviously and exclusively for sensational or pornographic purposes.
- No one may display threatening, harassing, or abusive language and images.
- No one may use the library's Internet connection for the purposes of solicitation, advertisement, or for any other commercial purposes.
- No one may change any setup or configuration of the library's software or hardware.
- No one may install their own software on the library's computers.
- No one may download to the computer's local hard drive. Downloading to portable storage media is permitted. Printing is allowed, however, patrons will be charged for the use of the printer.

The library uses a computerized reservation system for the online computers. Telephone reservations for Internet time will not be taken. A library card and PIN (personal identification number or password) will be required for reservations and for logging on to the public access computers. Adult computers have a limit of 120 minutes per day. Users will be granted an initial 90 minutes at logon with 30 minutes of additional time given in increments if no one else is waiting. Teen and Youth computers have a limit of 90 minutes per day. 60 minutes will be granted at logon with 30 minutes of additional time given in increments if no one else is waiting.

Individuals who are not residents of the area but would like to use the computer will be granted a guest pass in lieu of a permanent library card.

Computer sign-in data may be kept on file but is considered confidential. Users of library Internet services should realize they can have no expectation of privacy while using the Internet as this is a public, shared service.

Any intentional misuse or abuse of the computer or failure to follow this policy or the associated procedures may result in suspension of Internet access privileges, a ban from the library and/or legal prosecution.

Use of the Library's Internet access constitutes acceptance of this agreement.

Adopted: 09/29/97
Revised: 01/11/99
Revised: 04/05/99

Revised: 01/10/00
Revised: 04/04/05
Revised: 08/29/11
Revised: 7/12/2022