

COMPUTER RESOURCES AND INTERNET POLICY

It is the intent of the Library District to provide free, equitable, and organized public access to Internet resources. This access honors the fundamental library principle of intellectual freedom, an abiding respect for the dignity and privacy of individual inquiry.

LIBRARY RESPONSIBILITY

The Library District has no control over information accessed through the Internet. We cannot be held responsible for its content. As with other library materials, supervision or restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian. It is also the responsibility of the child, whose curiosity is surely tempered by his or her judgment and upbringing.

Much of the information on the Internet is timely, useful and/or entertaining. Some of it is dated, erroneous or offensive. This is also the case with printed materials. Library users should cast a cautious and critical eye on any and all data they discover. The job of the library is access, not endorsement.

1. The Library District reserves the right to set rules, as needed to promote equitable computer use (e.g., time limits), and to revise these rules in response to changes in or concerns about the Library District's computing systems.
2. The Library District assumes no liability for any loss or damage to users' data or media, nor for any personal damage or injury incurred as a result of using the Library District's computer resources. This includes damage or injury sustained from invasions of the user's privacy.
3. Rules for public use of Library District computer resources are to be defined by the Library District staff. Violation of rules may result in suspension of library use privileges.
4. In general, we expect that our patrons will be both law-abiding and civil.

UNACCEPTABLE USE OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES/PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Computer and Internet resources may only be used for legal purposes within the rules established by the Library District. Individuals using Library District computer resources for illegal or criminal uses are subject to prosecution and suspension of Library District privileges. Examples of illegal use include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Attempting to alter or damage computer equipment, software configurations and files belonging to the Library District, other users, or external networks.
 - b. Attempting unauthorized entry to the Library District's network or external networks.
 - c. Violation of copyright or software license agreements; it is not acceptable to violate the legal protections provided by copyright and licenses to program and data.

- d. Transmission of speech not protected by the First Amendment, such as libel and obscenity;
- e. Seeking information on, obtaining copies of, or modifying files, other data or passwords belonging to other users—users shall not represent themselves as another user, or use another patron’s library card number to gain access to the Internet.
- f. Falsifying one’s age to gain access to Internet sites.
- g. It is not acceptable at any time to use the Library District resources to infiltrate a computer or computing system or to damage or alter the software or hardware components of a local or remote computer or computing system by the intentional propagation of computer viruses and/or manipulation of system files.
- h. The use of Internet workstations beyond time limits established by Library District staff is not acceptable, unless provided for by a staff member. Time limits may change without notice.
- i. The Library District reserves the right to monitor web sessions in order to ensure system security. Library District staff may review these sessions anonymously and remotely. All transactions will be considered confidential, except in cases where illegal activity is observed or detected. In such cases, Internet activity may be terminated, and information may be made available to local law enforcement agencies in accordance with the provisions set forth in C.R.S. § 24-90-119.
- j. The unauthorized disclosure, usage and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors is not acceptable.

ACCESS BY MINORS TO INTERNET RESOURCES

1. As previously stated, it is the intent of the Library District to augment its services with open and organized access to Internet resources for the needs of the citizens and organization of Mesa County. Nevertheless, it is the intent of the Library District to limit access by minors to Internet resources that are considered by reasonable assertion to be obscene or illegal.
2. The Library District accomplishes this by a variety of methods:
 - a. The Library District provides various classes that teach how to search the World Wide Web safely and effectively.
 - b. The Library District provides supervision of public space. Minors, like adults, are expected to behave in a civil and appropriate manner while visiting the library. The display of visual material that is explicit or sexual in nature and/or that might be considered immediately offensive to others constitutes rude behavior on most circumstances. In such circumstances, at the discretion of the library staff, patrons will be asked to cease such behavior, with the occurrence of the behavior documented. If the behavior does not cease, the patron may be ordered to leave Library District property, and risk loss of future library privileges.

- c. The Library District also accomplishes supervision of internet workstations, wherever practical, in direct line of sight of staff members. The Library District will investigate all complaints made by other patrons of activities described within this documents.
- d. The Library District also limits access on Internet workstations by regulating their use by observation, and the employment of Internet protection measures; specifically, firewall and filtration software. It is generally understood that no technology is 100% effective in allowing only “good” content and blocking only “bad” content. However, the Library District will seek to remain current concerning those technologies.
- e. As specified by state and federal laws (HB 04-1004 Internet Protection in Public Libraries, C.R.S. § 24-90-601 to 606, and the Children’s Protection Act, P.L. No. 106-554), the Library District will filter all Internet-capable computers.
- f. To address issues of safety and security of minors when using electronic mail and other forms of electronic communication, it is the ultimate responsibility of parents and legal guardians to urge minors to follow basic safety guidelines: never give out personal information (names, addresses, phone numbers, etc.), never to arrange via a computer to meet someone with whom they are not familiar, and never respond to messages that are threatening or suggestive, keeping in mind that people on line may not be who they represent themselves to be.

ENFORCEMENT OF POLICIES AND CONSEQUENCES

No patron, minor or adult, has the legal right to use public property to commit crimes, or violate Library District policies, as set for there within. At the same time, no policy can assure that crimes will never be committed, or Library District policies will not be violated. If patrons are found to be accessing materials that may be, at the discretion of Library District staff, obscene, offensive in nature and/or illegal, they will be asked to leave Library District property by the designated Library District staff and may be barred from future use of Library District resources, dependent on the severity of their actions. Also, the occurrence of such incidents will be made record of by staff. Any such documented repeated violations will be grounds for loss of access to Library District resources, as well as possible banning of the individual from access to the Library District as a whole.

APPROVED: _____
 Bob Delavan, President
 MCPLD Board of Trustees

DATE: