

# INTERNET POLICY

Marion Public Library

## Accessing the internet

The Marion Public Library provides workstations for free public access. Use of the internet via the library's wireless network is also bound by this policy. The library does not control specific information on the internet. Parents or guardians are responsible for the internet information selected and/or accessed by their children. Parents or guardians are advised to supervise their children's internet sessions.

## Using the internet

Computer users can login directly at any available internet computer. Users must be at least nine years old and have a current library card. Guest passes are available upon request.

The library also offers free wireless internet access to patrons with wireless-enabled laptop computers or handheld devices. Library staff is trained to assist with library equipment and resources, but may not be able to help with personal devices. *The library does not accept liability for patron equipment.*

## Restrictions

The use of the internet in the library must be for legal and ethical purposes. Examples of unacceptable purposes include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17 of the United States Code) governs the downloading and reproduction of copyrighted material. The person using the library's computers is liable for any infringement. The library reserves the right to refuse a download or print job if, in its judgement, fulfillment of the order would involve violation of copyright law.
- Receiving or displaying text or graphics that may reasonably be construed as indecent or obscene and that might be harmful to minors. Iowa Code, Chapter 728.2, "**Dissemination and exhibition of obscene materials to minors**" states: "*Any person, other than the parent or guardian of the minor who knowingly disseminates or exhibits obscene materials to a minor, including the exhibition of obscene material so that it can be observed by a minor [emphasis added] on or off the premises where it is displayed, is guilty of a public offense and shall upon conviction be guilty of a serious misdemeanor.*"
- Destruction of or damage to equipment, software, or data belonging to the library;
- Violation of computer system security and/or system configuration;
- Violation of another user's right to privacy;
- Use of sounds that are disturbing to others. Earbuds or headphones must be used if the computer's speakers are turned on; the library has earbuds available for purchase; ask at the Information Desk.

While respecting individual users' rights to privacy, the library staff reserves the right to monitor use of computer workstations to ensure compliance with this policy.

## **Consequences**

Patrons found to be violating any of these restrictions will be given a warning and asked to log off of their internet sessions immediately. They will not be allowed on the library's internet computers (including laptops) for 30 days. Patrons violating the restrictions a second time will no longer be allowed to access the library's internet computers (including laptops). Appropriate notes will be made in the patron's library account and will be initialed and dated.

## **Disclaimer**

The library makes no guarantee, either expressed or implied, with respect to the availability, quality, or content of the information on the internet. Users are encouraged to evaluate the validity of information accessed, either on their own or with the assistance of library staff.

## **Points**

- There is a limit of 90 minutes per person, per day. Sessions may be extended by the library's automated reservation system.
- Patrons who wish to use web-based e-mail or other online profiles must register and maintain their own accounts.
- Anything downloaded to the library's computers will be automatically deleted after patron logs off.
- No more than two persons may use an internet computer at the same time.

## **Collection of Information on Use of Library Computers**

Information is collected on usage of public computers in the Marion Public Library. The library's PC Reservation System retains only information on the patron barcode, computer reserved, and the date and time of every public computer session. *These records are accessible to law enforcement agencies with a valid court order.*

## **Printing**

Black and white and color printing are available; prices are posted on the coin box, or check at the staff desk. Printer is located near the Information Desk; payment is due before printing.

## **Staff Assistance**

If time permits, library staff may assist computer users.

## **Availability**

internet computers may be unavailable or may be available for limited use due to library use or unforeseen problems.