INTERNET POLICY
Marion Public Library

Accessing the Internet
The Marion Public Library provides workstations for free public access to the Internet as an informational, educational, and recreational resource. 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. The library staff assumes those under age 18 have parental permission to use library resources, including the Internet. Parents or legal guardians may talk to a library supervisor to restrict Internet use by minor children. If parents or guardians restrict use, they are responsible for letting the library know when the restriction is lifted.

Using the Internet
Computer users can login directly at any available Internet computer. Users must be at least nine years old, have a current library card, and have fines below the limit specified in Circulation Policy C 1.1 Section IV B. Internet computer users must use their own library cards and are not allowed to use the cards of friends or family to access the Internet.

The library also offers free wireless Internet access to patrons with wireless-enabled laptop computers or handheld devices. *Please note that the library will not assist with laptops, wireless network cards, or configurations. The library does not accept ~~the~~ 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:

- 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, <u>including the exhibition of obscene material so that it can be observed by a minor</u> [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 for $1.00.

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 explanatory 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.

Points to remember

- There is a limit of 90 minutes per person, per day.
- Patrons who wish to use web-based e-mail must register and maintain their own account without staff assistance.
- Users cannot download to the computer. Information may be saved to a USB flash drive.
- 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 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 printing is $.10 a page; color printing is $.50 a page. Printer is located near the Information Desk; payment is due before printing. The library reserves the right for staff to view printed pages.

Staff Assistance

Internet users are expected to be knowledgeable in basic computer operations.

If time permits, library staff may assist users in getting started on the Internet and offer suggestions for effective searching.

Availability

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

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