

Internet Use Policy

Purpose

This Policy governs Internet use through resources provided by the Prospect Heights Public Library District ("the Library"). The Library offers Internet use through computer work stations and a public wireless signal to help foster independent access to information.

Disclaimer

The Internet provides access to a wide variety of information, ideas, and commentary from around the world and a vast array of tools and resources for different age levels and points of view. While generally useful, some of this information may be erroneous, out-of-date, illegal, or deemed offensive, controversial, or sexually explicit. The Library does not endorse the viewpoints or vouch for the accuracy of information obtained through the Internet and expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through the Internet.

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 their use of the Internet.

Free Access to Information

The Library supports access to information on all subjects that serve the needs or interests of each patron and promotes intellectual freedom as stated in the American Library Associations "Library Bill of Rights". The Library does not endorse using Internet filters in libraries because they block access to information that is legal and useful, and because they cannot distinguish between protected and unprotected speech. Filters are not installed on any computers at the Library except for two clearly designated computers in the Youth Services section, which are filtered to meet our community's diverse needs. As with other types of library materials, it is the parent's responsibility to decide which Internet information is appropriate for their children.

Right to Privacy

The Library strives to protect users' rights to privacy and confidentiality. The Library does not collect or retain any browser history or personal information entered on its computers or wireless service. The Library will not reveal or share the information sources or services individual users consult unless required by law or court order. However, electronic communication by its nature may not be secure or private. The Library cannot guarantee the security or privacy of online transactions.

Internet users should be aware that images on the screen and at public printers are subject to view by any Library patron or employee passing by and patrons using the Internet agree that the Library has the right to monitor public screens from time to time and to disclose any information necessary to satisfy any law, regulation, other government request, or operational necessity. The Library also reserves the right to remove content it deems inappropriate or offensive.

Guidelines of acceptable use

By using the Internet through the Library, patrons agree not to use the Internet for any illegal activity or to post or transmit any unlawful, threatening, abusive information including, without limitation, any transmission constituting or encouraging conduct that would constitute a criminal offense or give rise to civil liability. Patrons also agree not to violate copyright laws or to post or transmit any information or software which contains a virus or other harmful component. Patrons agree not to view obscene material.

Failure to comply with these policies may result in suspension of computer privileges at the Library. Illegal use may be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.

See also

The Prospect Heights Public Library District Wireless Internet Usage Agreement