

E. Internet Usage Policy

The primary mission of the International Falls Public Library is to extend and improve access to information and materials, which promote education, intellectual stimulation and pleasure to the citizens of the area.

The International Falls Public Library provides information in a variety of formats, including print and non-print materials. The International Falls Public Library's online automated system provides the opportunity to access electronic resources from information networks worldwide.

The Internet, as an information resource, enables the International Falls Public Library to provide information beyond the scope of its collections. The Internet offers a variety of information that is professionally and culturally stimulating; however, the information available is constantly changing, making it impossible to predict what information is available. Individual users must accept responsibility for determining applicability, currency and accuracy of information found on the Internet.

The International Falls Public Library affirms the right of each individual to have access to constitutionally protected material. Freedom of expression is an inalienable human right and the foundation of self-government. Freedom of expression encompasses the right to freedom of speech and the corollary right to receive information. The International Falls Public Library subscribes to the *American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights*: "Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation."

The International Falls Public Library affirms the right and responsibility of parents to provide guidance for their own children's use of library materials and resources, including electronic resources. *The American Library Association's Free Access to Libraries for Minors: an Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights*, states "Librarian and governing bodies should maintain that parents - and only parents - have the right and the responsibility to restrict the access of their children - and only their children - to library resources.

Not all sources on the Internet provide accurate, complete, or current information. Users need to be good information consumers, questioning the validity of the information.

F. Acceptable Use of Internet Resources

Introduction

International Falls Public Library offers Internet access as another means of fulfilling its mission to be a welcoming resource center that promotes children's literacy, supports lifelong learning and cultivates creativity to empower and encourage a connected community. Thus the Library affirms the right of patrons to have access to legally protected materials and to make their own judgements about the value and suitability of information accessed via the Internet. However, the Library also recognizes the necessity of maintaining a welcoming environment in which patrons and staff are not exposed to images of obscenity or child pornography and children are protected from Internet material harmful to them. Therefore, measures will be taken in an attempt to satisfy federal, state, and local laws regarding control of Internet access while maintaining the principles of free access to information.

Rules for Computer Workstation Use

See "Public Use of Library Computers," Part 4, Section D of this manual.

Responsibilities of Users

Use of Internet workstations, laptops and wireless access is for legal purposes only. All Internet users must observe the policies and procedures established by the library, including "Standards of Patron Conduct" (Policy Manual, Part 4, Section O), "Public Use of Library Computers" (Policy Manual, Part 4, Section D), as well as the following:

- A. Patrons may not display, send, receive, or print images, text, or graphics of obscene materials or materials that violate laws relating to child pornography, nor may they display or send to children materials that may be harmful to minors.
- B. Patrons may not use Internet access to transmit threatening or harassing materials.
- C. Patrons may not use Internet access for unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors.
- D. Patrons may not use Internet access for unlawfully accessing information, i.e. "hacking."
- E. Patrons may not alter computer hardware, software, or configurations, nor may they install software on the Internet terminals.
- F. Patrons must abide by all copyright and software licensing agreements.
- G. Patrons may not use Internet access for uploading unlawful information, i.e. "piracy"

Responsibilities of Staff

Library staff is responsible for implementing these policies, and will monitor Internet access for patron compliance. If a staff member observes a patron accessing an inappropriate site, the staff member will remind the patron of these guidelines and ask him or her to exit that site. The staff member may terminate an Internet session for any patron who fails to comply. Staff members are authorized to refuse to assist a patron if they believe such action will cause them to view obscene or pornographic material. In such an event, the staff member may choose to shut off the computer at the power strip and restart it. If a staff member discovers child pornography being accessed on an Internet workstation, he or she will record the URL of the site in question and report it to the director, who will refer the matter to the City Attorney's office.

Use of the Internet by Children

International Falls Public Library affirms the right and responsibility of parents to provide guidance for their own children's use of library materials and resources, including electronic resources. Thus, minors have access to all public computers in the library, providing they abide by the "Responsibilities of Users" section of this policy statement and, in addition, do not access material generally deemed harmful to minors

While library staff will make a good faith attempt to monitor Internet use by minors, parents should be aware that such monitoring is no substitute for direct parental supervision and library staff are unable to serve 'in loco parentis'.

Liability

International Falls Public Library assumes no responsibility for damages that users or anyone else may suffer from using the Library's Internet terminals, or wireless Internet connection. All Internet users agree to hold the Library harmless from any claims, losses, damages, or obligations related to U.S. copyright law, use or accuracy of information obtained via the Internet, or damage to patrons' hardware or software.