



Internet Use & Safety Policy

Purpose and Scope

In order to meet the information needs of its users, the Wallingford Public Library (WPL) provides public access to the internet. WPL is unable to monitor or control the content of material available online and library patrons use it at their own risk. Parents/guardians of children under 18 are responsible for their children's use of the Internet.

WPL's Internet Use Policy is designed to promote access to the internet and is used in conjunction with our Code of Conduct.

WPL fully supports the declarations of the American Library Association including the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read and Freedom to View Statements.

Roles and Responsibilities

Information consumers must evaluate the validity and appropriateness of information found on the internet. WPL staff is available to assist its patrons to use the internet in a safe, effective and efficient manner – however, patrons are expected to have basic working knowledge of computer hardware and software programs. WPL makes no representations as to, nor is it responsible for the content, organization, or quality of information from internet sources. WPL disclaims all liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through the internet.

Filtering

As required by the Children's Internet Protection Act ("CIPA"), in order to remain eligible for certain federal funding, WPL has implemented software filtering on its internet-accessible devices and on its wi-fi network. The filtering software protects against access to visual depictions of obscenity, child pornography, and materials that are deemed "harmful to minors." Computer users should be aware, however, that WPL cannot and does not guarantee that the filtering software will block all obscenity, child pornography, or materials that are harmful to minors. Nor can WPL guarantee that the filtering software will not restrict access to sites that may have legitimate research or other value. Users should be aware that internet filtering software installed for CIPA compliance should not substitute for individual judgment and/or parental involvement and oversight. As the law requires, WPL will disable filtered internet access to persons 18 or older who request it for bona fide research or any other lawful purposes. Users may speak with a librarian to request unblocking of an incorrectly blocked site.

Education and Monitoring

Parents or legal guardians assume responsibility for deciding which library resources are appropriate for their own children. Parents or legal guardians guide their children in use of the internet. Parents or legal guardians are encouraged to make themselves familiar with information about internet safety. Our librarians are available to provide more information. WPL respects the rights of parents to determine what is appropriate for their children to read, hear and view; but the library cannot enforce these rules.



Inappropriate Internet Use

As required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate internet use includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and (c) dissemination and viewing of obscene visual depictions, child pornography, and/or other materials harmful to minors.

User Security

Computer users should be aware that the internet is not a secure medium and that third parties may be able to obtain information regarding users' activities. WPL cannot guarantee privacy of data or computer usage. WPL does not actively collect browser history or personal information entered into websites or applications. WPL will not release information on the use of specific internet resources by members of the public except as required by law or necessary for the proper operation of WPL.

Users handling financial transactions or other activities that require confidentiality do so at their own risk. The internet is not a private environment and security of electronic communication is not guaranteed. WPL does not assume responsibility for the security of borrowed devices or personally owned hardware or software used on library premises.

Compliance

WPL reserves the right to take appropriate action to ensure compliance with this policy. Freedom to access information is a right, but use of library equipment is a privilege. Users shall respect the rights of other computer users, library patrons and staff in keeping with WPL's Code of Conduct. Violations of this policy or misuse of the computer or internet will result in a patron's loss of computer privileges and may also result in the loss of library privileges, disciplinary, criminal and/or legal action.

*Adopted by Board of Managers June 27, 2016.
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