

COMPUTER/INTERNET POLICY



Public Access Computer Use Policy

Internet use is offered in thirty (30) minute sessions on a first-come, first-served basis. Each user is allowed one session-if there is no patron waiting for the service at the end of a session, the user can sign up for another session. There is no charge for computer use.

Patrons may use their own software compatible with the library computer. If the patron elects to use her/his own software, the library will not be held responsible for damage to the patron's software resulting from use of the computer.

Users will respect and uphold copyright laws and all other applicable laws and regulations; they will not use it for illegal purposes. Users will respect the rights and privacy of others by not accessing private files. Users agree not to incur any cost for the library through their use of the Internet service. Users shall not create and/or distribute computer viruses over the Internet. Users shall not deliberately or willfully cause damage to computer equipment, programs, or parameters.

Internet Use Policy

Access to the Internet is available to all patrons. Any parent or caregiver that wishes to deny their child's internet access may do so at any time by please notifying staff.

Expectations:

Users should be aware that the inappropriate use of electronic information resources can be a violation of local, state, and federal laws and can lead to prosecution. The user will be held responsible for her/his actions using the Internet. Users are expected to abide by the policies below which include generally accepted rules of network etiquette. Unacceptable uses of the service will result in the suspension or revocation of Internet use privileges.

Internet Safety Policy

Introduction

All users of the Internet shall use it in a responsible manner, consistent with the educational, recreational, business, and informational purposes for which it is provided.

Prohibited Uses (See Definitions, below)

It is not acceptable to use Brandon Public Library computers for:

1. Any purposes which violate U.S., state, or local laws.
2. Transmitting threatening, obscene or harassing materials, including the use of profanity or offensive language.

3. Intentional or unintentional disruption of network users, services or equipment, harm to other computer systems, including excessive bandwidth utilization.
4. Distribution of unsolicited advertising.
5. Tampering with computer or network security.
6. Making unauthorized entry into any systems accessible via Library computers.
7. Representing oneself as another person.
8. Developing and/or propagating programs that harass other users or cause harm to other computer systems. (e.g. computer "viruses" and "worms.")
9. Copying, file sharing, downloading or distributing commercial software or other material (e.g. music) in violation of federal or international copyright laws.
10. Accessing or loading pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit material or visual depictions that are harmful to minors.
11. Other uses deemed inappropriate at the discretion of Brandon Public Library management.

Illegal acts involving the Brandon Public Library computers may be subject to prosecution by local, state or federal authorities.

CAUTIONS

1. There are filters on all public computers; however, no filter is 100 % effective and the library is not responsible for the availability and accuracy of information found on the Internet.
2. The library cannot assure that data or files downloaded by users are virus-free.
3. The use of the Internet and email is not guaranteed to be private. Messages or computer use relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the proper authorities.

MINORS' INTERNET USE

1. Library staff members will make a reasonable effort to regulate and supervise minors when they are using the Internet in the library. They will promote safety, provide warnings, and discourage access to inappropriate or harmful matter.
2. It is not possible for library staff to control all information children may locate on the Internet. Just as the library does not vouch for or endorse viewpoints or written material in its collections, it does not do so for the Internet.
3. Internet computers in the library are filtered for content suitable for children. Parents must realize that no filter is 100% effective and that the filtering provided by a private company may or may not be what the parent would filter. Some material suitable for children may also be inadvertently filtered.

STAFF MONITORING

Library staff have the right to monitor Internet use for compliance with this policy. Staff have the right to use their discretion to determine what constitutes unacceptable use of computers and terminate a user's session, without notice.

DEFINITIONS

Obscenity – Whether the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest; whether the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by law; and whether the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

Child pornography – Any visual depiction, or any images that appear to be visual depictions, of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct, which includes actual or simulated sexual intercourse, bestiality, masturbation, sadistic or masochistic abuse, or lascivious exhibition of the genitals or pubic area.

Visual depictions that are harmful to minors – Any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

- a) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to the prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
- b) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sex acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and,
- c) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors.

ENFORCEMENT

See Patron Responsibilities and Conduct Policy

Board Approved: 12/02/2014