

2.80 INTERNET USE POLICY



Internet access at the Richland Community Library is an extension of the library's mission to meet the community's information needs. The Library makes the Internet available to the public as an informational, educational and recreational resource in support of its role as this community's information and lifelong learning center, just as it has in the provision of books, magazines, music CDs, talking books and other media. Consistent with our mission and the professional principles of public librarianship, this Internet Use Policy affirms the safeguarding of First Amendment rights, intellectual freedom, equity of access, confidentiality of information about users and their use of all library resources including electronic, and individual responsibility.

Staff Assistance

In general, staff can assist internet users with finding specific websites, opening applications, printing, and attaching files to emails. Other extensive computer and internet help may require patrons to bring a trusted friend or relative to assist them.

Validity of Information

Internet resources change rapidly and unpredictably. Not all sources on the Internet provide information that is accurate, complete, current or legal. The Library is unable to monitor or control the content of Internet resources. The Library and its Trustees shall not be liable for any damages from any information obtained or provided on the Internet. Users are hereby notified that they are responsible for the choice of sites that they visit. The Internet is a worldwide community with a highly diverse user population and it is the user's responsibility to use this resource wisely. Library patrons use the Internet at their own risk. Parents or guardians of minor children are responsible for their child's use of the Internet through the Library's connection.

Procedures and Acceptable Use

The Internet must be used in a responsible manner, respecting the rights of others, and taking care with use of the equipment and/or network or device. Computer, Internet, and Mobile Wifi Hotspot settings may not be changed. The Library's Internet computers may not be used for any unlawful or improper activities prohibited under local, state or federal laws. These activities include, but are not limited to:

- Displaying, transmitting or exhibiting to minors' sexually explicit material harmful to minors as defined by MCL 397.606 (Section 6 of the Library Privacy Act).

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- Hacking or spamming
- Obtaining or attempting to obtain unauthorized access to computers, networks, sites, or information systems, including so-called “hacking”, credit card or retail fraud, and any other unlawful uses or activities online.
- Harassment
- Infringement of copyright law
Damaging or altering of software or equipment
- Fraud
- Distribution of unsolicited advertising or propaganda, or propagation of computer viruses Libeling, harassing, or slandering other users
- Solicitation of minors

Computer use by a patron is limited to one hour. If others are not waiting an extension of the time limit may be granted by way of staff permission. Requests will be fulfilled as long as other patrons are not waiting for computer access.

Printing may be done at the posted price per page.

Library Employees may terminate a user’s session immediately as necessary for failure to comply with the library’s Internet Policy and/or rules. The Library Director (or their designee) is authorized to terminate any user’s access session if the user has failed to comply with the library’s Internet Policy and/or rules. The library director may impose longer restrictions for violations of the library’s Internet Policy.

Right of Appeal

Internet users whose access session has been terminated or prohibited may request the decision reviewed by the Board of Trustees. The Richland Community Library considers use of any public access computers and Wifi HotSpots to constitute an acceptance of its Internet Use Policy. Patrons will reaffirm the agreement each time they use the public Internet computers.

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