

Access to Internet Resources:

The Marion County Public Library System provides free public access to the Internet to offer information beyond the confines of the library's collections and to support the library's mission and goals.

The Internet is a vast, unregulated medium that provides access to a variety of ideas, images, information, and commentary. Some may find Internet content to be offensive, disturbing, illegal, inaccurate, or incomplete. The library cannot control and is not responsible for the content or accuracy of information accessed over the Internet, including information in electronic mail and other forms of electronic communication. Some material may also be considered inappropriate for or harmful to minors. Users are advised to be discriminating information consumers when using the Internet.

All library computers are filtered to block some internet sites. In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, these sites include those that provide access to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, and (in the case of use by minors) harmful to minors. However, filters are inconsistent and may allow access to sites that should be blocked.

Adults, age 17 and over (as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act), may bypass the filter by requesting that a library staff member override the filter at selected library workstations. Users in the children's or young adult areas of any library facility are not permitted to access Internet sites which may be unsuitable for minors.

Conditions and Terms of Use:

All users of electronic resources are expected to use these resources in a lawful and responsible manner including, but not limited to, the following:

- Using resources in compliance with the Rules of Conduct.
- Using resources for educational, informational and recreational purposes only, not for unauthorized or illegal purposes.
- Refraining from using resources in a manner that is deliberately offensive or which creates a hostile or intimidating environment.
- Respecting the privacy of others by not attempting to use, modify, or gain access to another's files.
- Respecting the privacy of others using public access workstations at the library by not interfering with their use.
- Refraining from harassing others in person or electronically.
- Respecting the guidelines of other networks or sites to which the user may connect.
- Refraining from seeking unauthorized access to any computer system.
- Refraining from damaging or altering a computer or computer system, network, program or software, per Florida Statutes, Chapter 815 "Computer-related Crimes".
- Complying with all local, state, and federal laws, including copyright laws.

Internet Usage and Safety Policy

- Not sending, displaying, or printing obscene material.
- Not displaying obscene materials to minors or printing such materials, per Florida Statutes, Chapter 847 “Obscene Literature: Profanity”.

An individual engaging in illegal activity involving the library’s Internet resources may be subject to prosecution by the appropriate authorities.

The library will establish procedures for the responsible and equitable use of public workstations. These procedures may include, but are not limited to:

- Requiring an individual to use only his or her own library card for access.
- Monitoring workstations for assistance, security purposes, and conformance with procedures and use policies.
- Limiting the length of time individuals may use library workstations.
- Limiting activities that impede the efficient operation of the library’s equipment and software.

The library assumes no liability for any loss or damage to the user’s data or other injury that may occur from the individual’s use of library internet access and equipment. The library assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from its connection to the Internet.

Internet Use by Minors :

Internet workstations in the children’s and young adult areas of library facilities are reserved for use by children, young adults, and their caregivers.

The library uses filtering software to block access to some Internet sites. Since no filtering system is completely effective or efficient, further restriction and monitoring of a minor’s use of library Internet access is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian. Library staff members are not responsible for actively monitoring the use of library Internet access by minors.

However, if a staff member observes a minor who appears to be accessing a site or sites which may be considered harmful to minors, the staff member will assist the minor in finding sites which are appropriate for the minor’s age, interest level, and reading level.

Minors should follow basic safety guidelines in using the Internet, electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of electronic communication including, but not limited to:

- Never giving out personal information such as name, address, telephone number or school.
- Never arranging via a computer to meet someone.
- Never responding to messages that are threatening or suggestive.
- Remembering that people online may not be who they say they are.

The library encourages parents and legal guardians to review and discuss online safety and security with their children.

Failure to comply with this policy may result in suspension or loss of use of the library's Internet resources, potential loss of library privileges, and possible prosecution.

Definitions :

Child pornography: United States Code, Title 18, section 2256 "Child pornography" means any visual depiction, including any photograph, film, video, picture, or computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where (A) the production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; (B) such visual depiction is, or appears to be, of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; (C) such visual depiction has been created, adapted, or modified to appear that an identifiable minor is engaging in sexually explicit conduct; or (D) such visual depiction is advertised, promoted, presented, described, or distributed in such a manner that conveys the impression that the material is or contains a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

Harmful to minors: CIPA sec. 1703(b)(2) The term "harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that (A) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a 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 sexual 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.

Obscene: Miller v. California, 413 U.S. (1973) To be obscene, material must meet a three-prong test: (1) an average person, applying contemporary community standards, must find that the material, as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest; (2) the material must depict or describe, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by applicable law; and (3) the material, taken as a whole, must lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.