

Internet Acceptable Use Policy

(Adopted November 2013; revised March 2015; revised July 2017; revised November 2018; revised September 2021)

This policy applies to all use of Stickney-Forest View Public Library District's wired or wireless Internet service, whether privately-owned or Library-provided devices are operated. The use of any Internet workstation and the wireless network in the Library constitutes an acceptance of its Internet Acceptable Use Policy. Patrons reaffirm this agreement each time they access the Internet in the Library.

Access to Internet resources

The Library is committed to providing access to informational, educational, recreational, and cultural resources for Library users of all ages and backgrounds. The Library's computer system provides the opportunity to integrate electronic resources from information networks around the world with the Library's other resources. The Library strives to balance the rights of users to access information resources with the rights of users to work in a public environment free from sounds and images intended to harass other Library users or Library staff.

The Library's goal in providing Internet access is to enhance its existing collection in size and depth and, as a public access agency, to give anyone who wishes to use the Internet the chance to do so. Library staff will help you use the computers to find the information you need and learn to use online search tools, although they cannot provide extensive one-on-one instruction.

Children's computers

As indicated on the application for all Library cards, parents or guardians assume all responsibility for the minor's selection of materials. Children younger than 18 years of age require a signed parental authorization to access electronic resources. Children 8 years of age and under may access any electronic resources and require direct parental/guardian supervision while utilizing the Internet/computer.

Library policy gives parents or guardians the right and responsibility to restrict their children's and only their own children's use of Library resources, including computers and the Internet. The Library respects the right of parents to determine what it is appropriate for their children to read, hear, and view, but the Library cannot enforce these rules, which may be different for each family in our community. Parents are encouraged to supervise and to participate actively in their children's computer and Internet use. The Library does not act *in loco parentis*, i.e. it does not have the same role in supervising children that schools have, and it cannot substitute its judgment for that of parents or enforce parents' decisions about their children's Internet use.

Time and other limits

Access to the Internet and other electronic resources made available to all possessing a valid Library card, or a valid card from any SWAN Library is on a first come, first serve basis. Sessions will be limited to one hour.

Access to the Internet and other electronic resources are available at no additional cost. However, all patrons will be charged for print-outs and for the cost of repairing or replacing any equipment or software damaged by the card holder.

Only the card holder is allowed to use his/her name and/or Library card to access the Internet and other electronic resources through the Stickney-Forest View Public Library District. Proper identification will be required for access to the computers.

Liability

The Internet offers access to many valuable sources of information, but not all sites are accurate, complete, or current. The Library does not monitor the information accessed through the Internet. There are many sites that carry information which one may find controversial or objectionable. Users may not hold the Library responsible for information acquired on the Internet. Users are encouraged to take advantage of the Internet and to exercise good judgment and discretion. Parents should supervise their children's Internet sessions.

While the Library strives to have the technology and related infrastructure that we purchase and license in excellent and efficient working condition, no guarantees can be either expressed or implied in respect to any equipment, programs, or other materials, that their performance will be flawless. Materials and equipment are given for use "as is." The entire risk as to the quality and performance of computer equipment, programs, and documentation is with the user. In no instance shall the Library be liable for actual, incidental, or consequential damages in connection with or arising from the use of any technology or related infrastructure.

Privacy

Library policies protect privacy in the use of Library materials and reference service. However, the Library is a public place, and the Library cannot provide private computer workstations or seating areas. At the same time, passersby should respect the privacy of computer users, and computer users should not attempt to show displayed material to passersby.

Library staff will take appropriate actions to resolve problems which arise during use of the Library's computer and Internet services and to enforce Library policies and rules. To this end, Library staff members may need to observe computer use, question users, and restrict conduct by users which violates this policy.

The Library's wireless Internet service is not encrypted. Users should be aware that any information sent or received could potentially be intercepted by another wireless user. Web-based security controls such as Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) are not sufficient to protect against certain types of attacks; therefore, users should avoid entering sensitive information such as credit card numbers, passwords or any other personally identifying information on any public wireless network.

Notice: Warning of Copyright Restrictions

As a patron, your ability to post or link to copyrighted material is governed by United States copyright law. The Library reserves the right to delete or disable any post or link that, in the judgment of Library staff, violates copyright law. The Library may terminate a patron's access to the system or network for disrespect of the intellectual property rights of others, or for repeat infringements of copyright. The Library has adopted this policy and will make all reasonable effort to enforce it in appropriate circumstances.

Related

SFVPLD Computer and Equipment Policy

SFVPLD Internet Safety Policy

SFVPLD Patron Code of Conduct Policy

SFVPLD Social Media Policy