

Internet Acceptable Use Policy

The use of any Internet workstation and the wireless network in the Ventress Memorial Library constitutes an acceptance of its Internet Acceptable Use Policy. Patrons reaffirm this agreement each time they access the Internet in the Library.

The Town of Marshfield and the library are committed to providing access to informational, educational, recreational and cultural resources for library users of all ages and backgrounds. As required by the Children's Internet Protection Act ("CIPA"), in order to remain eligible for certain federal funding, the Town's IT department has implemented software filtering on all of the library's Internet-accessible computer terminals. The software installed on Internet-accessible computers at the library protects against access to visual depictions of obscenity, child pornography, and materials that are "harmful to minors." Users should be aware, however, that all currently available filtering software results in a degree of both "underblocking" (i.e., permitting access to certain material that falls within the foregoing categories) and "overblocking" (i.e., denying access to certain constitutionally protected material that does not fall within the foregoing categories). The IT department has attempted to select filtering software that best complies with CIPA while providing library users with the broadest possible access to constitutionally protected speech and information. The IT department cannot and does not guarantee that the filtering software will block all obscenity, child pornography, or materials that are harmful to minors. Nor can the library guarantee that the filtering software will not restrict access to sites that may have legitimate research or other value. In order to help address the overblocking problem and to enhance users' access to constitutionally protected speech and information, the library requests that all users, both adults and minors, contact the library at filteringvml@yahoo.com to request unblocking of an incorrectly blocked site.

Unacceptable Use

Unacceptable use includes but is not limited to, the following:

- Violating computer security and user privacy
- Destruction or damage to equipment, software, or data
- Misrepresentation of identity
- Copyright violations
- Unlawful speech, hate speech, and harassment
- Illegal activities
- Blatantly offensive visual images
- Sexual harassment
- Distributing unsolicited advertising
- Altering or attempting to alter the workstation's settings

Library staff are authorized to take prompt and appropriate actions to enforce the Internet Acceptable Use Policy. Violation of these provisions may result in suspension or cancellation of the patron's access to the library's Internet computers. Illegal acts involving library computer resources may be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.

Library Liability

1. The Ventress Memorial Library has no control over the information available on the Internet except for the library's web site and cannot be held responsible for the content or quality of the information retrieved.
2. While the Internet offers access to many valuable resources, some information found on the internet may be inaccurate, dated, or offensive to some individuals. Users are encouraged to exercise critical judgment in evaluating the validity of information accessed via the Internet.
3. The library assumes no responsibility for any financial obligations or damages, direct or indirect, which may result from the use of the network.
4. The library cannot protect its users from information or images which they find offensive or disturbing.

Children

There are no Internet access computers in the Children's room. It is the responsibility of parents, guardians, and caregivers, not library staff, to supervise children using the internet workstations and what information is accessed by their children on any computer in the library.

Limiting Time

1. Internet computers are available on a first come, first served basis.
2. Patrons shall limit their connect time to 60 minutes when other patrons are waiting.

This policy has been written in accordance with The Library Bill of Rights and the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment.

Approved by Board of Trustees April 21, 2016 (amended 3/20/2024)