



INTERNET USE AND SAFETY POLICY

Introduction and the Library's Role

In response to technology advances and community needs, the Lewiston City Library (“Library”) endeavors to provide collections, resources, and services that meet the community’s needs, including providing public access to the Internet on Library computers. The Library’s goal is to provide a comfortable and welcoming environment for all ages. Library computers with Internet access are located in public areas shared by people of all ages and backgrounds. Internet users must be considerate and respectful of other Library users and especially mindful of children in the Library, particularly when accessing information or images others may find offensive.

The Internet contains a wide variety of material and opinions from various points of view. Not all sources provide information that is accurate, complete, or current, and some information may be considered offensive or inappropriate for certain age groups. While the Library is sensitive to patrons’ concerns regarding Internet content, no one – including the Library – can control the information available on the Internet. Each individual is responsible for his or her own appropriate use of the Internet and uses the Internet at his or her own risk. The Library shall not assume any liability or responsibility for any damage – whether direct or indirect – that arises from a patron’s use of the Internet provided by the Library.

The intent of this Internet Use and Safety Policy (“Policy”) is to ensure a safe environment for Internet use on the Library’s computers and to comply with the provisions of Idaho Code § 33-2741 and the Children’s Internet Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 254.

Internet Safety for Minors

The Library has a policy of Internet safety for minors, including the operation of a technology protection measure known as filtering software with respect to any of its computers with Internet access that protects against access through such computers to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors, as defined in Idaho Code § 33-2741 and the Children’s Internet Protection Act, as may be amended from time-to-time. The filtering software will be enforced to provide Internet safety during any use of a Library computer by a minor.

In accordance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act, and to the extent practical, the Library shall take measures designed to: (1) promote the safety and security of minors when

using the Library's Internet for electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications; and (2) restrict minors' access to materials harmful to minors. Additionally, it is the Library's policy to prevent: (1) access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web, which inappropriate matter includes visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors, as defined in Idaho Code § 33-2741 and the Children's Internet Protection Act, as may be amended from time-to-time; (2) unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful activities by minors online; and (3) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

Internet Safety for Adults

The Library has a policy of Internet safety for adults, which includes the operation of filtering software with respect to any of its computers with Internet access that protects against access through such computers to visual depictions that are obscene or child pornography, as defined in Idaho Code § 33-2741 and the Children's Internet Protection Act, as may be amended from time-to-time. The filtering software will be enforced to provide Internet safety during any use of a Library computer; provided, however, that the Library Director or Library Director's designee(s) may disable the filtering software during use by an adult to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes, in accordance with 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(6)(D).

Free Wireless Network

The Library's free wireless network is available to patrons who bring their own wireless devices to the Library. There is no limit to the length of time a patron may use the Library's wireless network.

Violations

Misuse of the Library's Internet access and/or failure to abide by this Policy will result in loss of Internet privileges for the length of time determined by Library staff.

Implementation

Developed under the direction of the Library Board of Trustees, this Policy was discussed and adopted, following reasonable public notice as required by Idaho Code, during an open meeting of the Library Board of Trustees on November 20, 2018. This Policy supersedes all previous Internet use and safety policies of the Library and is effective on November 20, 2018.

This Policy will be reviewed by the Board at least once every three (3) years. A notice of the availability of this Policy will be posted in a conspicuous place within the Library for all patrons to observe.

Most Recent Date of Review: November 20, 2018