

INTERNET ACCESS POLICY

Charles A. Ransom District Library
Adopted by Board: March 22, 2005

The Charles A. Ransom District Library provides access to the Internet as an information and recreation resource. The Library provides this access via computers located in the library as well as a wireless network for patrons to use with their own computer equipment that they bring into the library. This policy applies to all Internet activity in the Library, regardless of the method of access.

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 (direct or consequential) 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.

Acceptable Use

The Library network and/or workstations are intended primarily for research, communication and personal data management activities and may be used only for legal and ethical purposes. The following activities are strictly prohibited:

- Accessing obscene matter or sexually explicit material that is harmful to minors
- Displaying images which other library users may find offensive to view
- Chat rooms
- Games (except on designated computers)
- Harassment of other users
- Destruction of or damage to equipment, software, or data belonging to the Library or other users
- Disruption or unauthorized monitoring of electronic communications
- Violation of U.S. copyright laws and all other applicable laws

Library staff has the authority to interpret and enforce this policy. Staff shall actively monitor all patrons' network use during and after sessions. Patrons who violate the guidelines once will be warned by Library staff. Continued failure to follow the guidelines may result in the loss of the right to use the network and/or workstations.

Minor Children

Minor children, aged 17 years and younger, must have a signed Internet Release Form for Minors on file at the library before they will be granted access to the network. Parents

and guardians, not the Library staff, are responsible for the network use of minor children. Parents are strongly advised to supervise their child's use of network resources.

Michigan Public Act 212 Compliance

Michigan Public Act 212 requires that libraries offering public access to computer network resources "utilize a system or method that is designed to prevent a minor from viewing obscene matter or sexually explicit matter that is harmful to minors". The Library complies with this requirement through the active monitoring of network use and strict enforcement of acceptable use standards.

General Procedures

1. Persons wishing to use the workstations shall be assigned a station number at the circulation desk.
2. Staff will verify that minor children under the age of 17 have a signed Internet Release Form for Minors on file.
3. Use of the workstations will be limited to one hour if others are waiting.
4. Library staff has the authority to extend or decrease time limits as necessary, depending on demand.