



**Whitewater**  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

## **INTERNET USE POLICY**

In keeping with the mission to make accessible the broadest possible range of information in a variety of formats, the Whitewater Public Library provides public access to the Internet.

The Internet offers a wealth of educational, recreational, and cultural information that vastly increases the resources available to library users. It is the user's responsibility to choose which resources to access. Be aware that the Internet is unregulated and materials accessible through it may be inaccurate, incomplete, outdated, biased, inappropriate, or offensive. Since the library has no control over the content, individuals use it at their own risk. Users are cautioned to access and evaluate materials online as they would a printed resource.

The library has no obligation to monitor the information presented on the Internet; however, patrons using the Internet agree that the library has the right to monitor the Internet from time to time and to disclose any information necessary to satisfy any law, regulation, court order, other governmental request, or operational necessity.

### **I. User Responsibilities and Ethical Use**

Responsible, ethical use of such resources includes the following:

--Receiving and acknowledging the library's Internet Use Policy.

--Using resources for educational, informational and recreational purposes only: not for unauthorized, illegal or unethical purposes.

--Respecting the privacy of others by not misrepresenting oneself as another user; by not attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords, or data belonging to others; by not seeking unauthorized access to any computer system, or damaging or altering software components of any network or database.

--Further respecting the privacy of others using the library's WiFi by not interfering with their use.

--Not attempting in any way to alter, damage, abuse, or sabotage computer equipment or software, alter configurations, or install any software.

--Making only authorized copies of copyrighted or licensed software or data.

--Not sending, receiving, or displaying text or graphics which may reasonably be construed as obscene. Users may not use library equipment for any activity that is deliberately offensive or creates an intimidating or hostile environment.

## **II. Use by Minor Children**

Children under the age of 18 must have parental permission to use the Internet.

The library assumes no responsibility for the use of the Internet by children. It is not possible for library staff to control specific information children and youth may locate on the Internet. Just as libraries do not vouch for or endorse the viewpoints of written material in their collections, they do not do so for electronic information. Selection policies which serve to govern a library's purchase of written materials may not apply to material accessed electronically. It is the responsibility of the user (or the parent/guardian) to determine what is appropriate.

## **III. Consequences of Infraction of Rules**

Users are liable for costs arising from malicious damage to library equipment or software.

Failure to comply with library policy may result in, but not be limited to, suspension of computer privileges at the library. Illegal use of library Internet work stations could be subject to prosecution under State or Federal law.

Habitual infractions will result in permanent loss of privileges to use library equipment.

## **IV. Assistance**

Library staff is available to assist in use of Internet resources, as needed, as time permits, but may not be familiar with every application. Because of the many

different Internet applications available, it is not possible to provide complete technical support.

**V. Disclaimer**

The Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the reproduction, distribution, adaptation, public performance, and public display of copyrighted material. Responsibility for any possible copyright infringement lies solely with the user; the library disclaims any responsibility or liability resulting thereof.

Displaying of sexually suggestive objects or pictures could be in violation of State or Federal obscenity laws.

The user agrees to hold the library harmless from any claims, losses, damages, obligations, or liabilities relating to the use of information obtained from the electronic information system at the library.

Software downloaded from the Internet may contain a virus. Users are cautioned to have virus-checking software on their computers. The library is not responsible for damage to a user's device or computer, or for any loss of data, damage, or liability that may occur from an individual's use of the library's Internet services.