

Missouri Valley Public Library
Internet Policy
Revised 14 February 2023

Purpose

The Missouri Valley Public Library provides access to the Internet as part of its mission to provide information, education, and technology to help the community live, learn, and grow.

The Library has no control over the information accessed through the internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. Individuals must accept responsibility for evaluating content. As with other library materials, the Library affirms responsibility of parents or guardians to guide their children's use of the Internet.

Responsibilities of the Library

The Library has no means or statutory authority to assure that only constitutionally protected material is accessed by the public. The authority to determine what is obscene rests with the Harrison County attorney (Sec. 728.6, Code of Iowa), not with the staff of the Missouri Valley Public Library. Public libraries are exempt under Sec. 728.7, Code of Iowa. The availability of information does not constitute endorsement of the content by the Missouri Valley Public Library. The Missouri Valley Public Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through the Internet, or any consequences thereof.

Since the Library participates in E-rate, Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) compliance is mandatory. For this reason, the Library provides filtering which restricts access to images that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors (for computers that are accessed by minors). The Library will endeavor to restrict only content specifically outlined by CIPA. Patrons 18 years and older may request a library employee turn off filtering software; it is the Library Director's discretion whether to accommodate the request.

Responsibility of Customers

Privacy in using the Internet in the library cannot be guaranteed. There exists a possibility of inadvertent viewing by others. Customers are urged to respect the sensibilities of others when accessing information that may reasonably be offensive to someone else.

Access, use, or dissemination of information via the Internet in the library is the responsibility of the customer. It is illegal to use the library's computers to access, view, print, distribute, display, send, or receive images or graphics of material that violate state or federal laws, including those relating to child pornography.

Guidelines for Public Internet Use

1. Computer users must check in at the front desk.
2. A parent must accompany a computer user under the age of 6.
3. Library computers are available from opening to one-half hour before closing.
4. Printing is \$.20 per page (one side).
5. Personal software may not be uploaded to the library computers.
6. Personal files may be saved on a flash drive.
7. If equipment is damaged or not functioning properly, users should immediately report the problem to library staff.

8. Users are responsible for damage to computers or software due to misuse of the equipment. This includes repair or replacement of damaged items. Parents of minors will be responsible for damage incurred by their children.
9. Misuse or abuse of internet access and computers will result in the suspension of computer privileges.
10. Patrons are limited to their own computer and monitor designated by cubicle divisions. No patron is to observe another patron's computer and monitor.

Confidentiality

The Internet is not a secure, private environment. Customers handling financial transactions or other activities that require confidentiality do so at their own risk. In general, electronic communication is not absolutely secure and is subject to outside intervention. It is also subject to monitoring by network administrators in the usual performance of their duties.

It is the Library's practice not to maintain a history of our customers' computer use. The Library will not retrieve any information, including web sites visited, passwords or credit card numbers, or any other information a customer has entered.

Library Use of Social Networking Sites

Missouri Valley Public Library's social networking sites will be used to inform members about library resources and activities and provide a source for online discussion. Postings on the sites will be reviewed and administered by Missouri Valley Public Library staff. Publication of comments does not constitute endorsement of the views expressed by the participants.

Wireless

The Library provides free, unsecured, wireless Internet access for public use. Security for personal wireless devices rests solely with the owner of the device. Personal use of the Library's public wireless access will not be regulated or filtered as with other types of public Internet access provided by the Library.

Expressions of Concern

The Missouri Valley Public Library Director and the Library Board of Trustees welcome feedback from customers. Any customer concerns will be handled promptly and courteously.

References

This policy has been developed in concert with the following American Library Association Guidance Documents: "Access to Digital Information, Services, and Networks," "Internet Use Policy and Guidelines," and "Statement on Library Use of Filtering Software."