

INTERNET USE POLICY

I. **Internet and the Library's Mission**

The Pekin Public Library makes the Internet accessible in accordance with our mission of fulfilling the informational, educational, and recreational needs of the community.

II. **"Global" Versus "Local" Resources**

Most resources available via the Internet and other electronic information networks are "global" rather than "local." Internet resources enhance and supplement those that are available locally within the Library. Library users must be aware that the Pekin Public Library does not and can not control the information content available through global resources. Library users must also keep in mind when evaluating information obtained via the Internet that such information may not be accurate, current, or available, and that certain information found on the Internet may be considered controversial by some library patrons.

The Pekin Public Library does not endorse information accessible through the Internet, nor can it accept the responsibility for damages, indirect or direct, arising from a library patron's use of Internet information resources.

III. **Filtering**

Technology protection measures in the form of filters are installed on all of the library's public computers. These filters are designed to block the access to visual depictions that constitute obscenity or child pornography, or are harmful to minors.

Upon the request of an adult, a member of the library staff will disable the filter on a computer being used by that adult to enable access for a research purpose or other lawful use not in violation of library policy. Filters will not be disabled for patrons under the age of 17.

The library will have no liability for damages related to the operation of, or failure of, the filtering software, or for its circumvention by users.

III. **Library Patron's Rights**

Library patrons have the right to confidentiality and privacy in the use of the Internet to the extent possible given certain constraints such as proximity of other patrons and staff in public access settings. They also have the right to equitable access to electronic information services, access to all library service policies, and to discuss questions with the appropriate library staff.

IV. **Acceptable Use of Equipment and the Internet**

The Pekin Public Library requires that library patrons using the Internet do so within the guidelines of acceptable use. The following activities are unacceptable:

- use of the Internet for any purpose which results in the harassment of other users

- destruction of, damage to, or unauthorized alteration of the library's computer software, or network security
- use of the Internet in any way which violates a Federal or State law, city ordinance, or licensing and payment agreements between the Pekin Public Library and network/database providers
- unauthorized duplication of copy protected software or violation of software license agreements
- violation of system security
- behaving in a manner that is disruptive to other users, including, but not limited to, the overuse of computer equipment which serves to deny access to other users

VI. Children's Access to the Internet

The Pekin Public Library supports the right of all library users to access information and will not deny access to the Internet based solely on age.

The Pekin Public Library recognizes that the Internet may contain material that is inappropriate for children, and that filtering software is not a substitute for parental supervision. Parents are expected to monitor and supervise their children's use of the Internet since the library staff are unable to do so. Parents are encouraged to discuss with their children issues of appropriate use and Internet safety.

VI. Library Procedures Relating to Electronic Networks

The Pekin Public Library has developed certain procedures to assist staff and patrons in the use of the electronic information resources. These procedures include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- time limits for access to allow use of resources by the maximum number of library patrons
- cost recovery for printouts using the library's computer equipment
- specific instructions for downloading including compliance with virus protection measures
- restrictions on the use of personal software on library computer equipment

VII. Breach of Policy

Violation of any aspect of this policy may result in the loss of library privileges, and illegal acts involving the Library's equipment may be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.

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