

WG RHEA PUBLIC LIBRARY INTERNET POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The W. G. Rhea Public Library is pleased to offer public use of the Internet as part of the library's mission of providing free and open access to materials and services to meet patrons' personal, educational, and professional needs. The library's computer system provides the opportunity to integrate electronic resources from around the world with the library's other resources.

In order to offer quality Internet service to all of our patrons, potential users must agree to follow the policy guidelines outlined below. In addition, due to the controversial nature of some of the materials available on the Internet, a parent or legal guardian must grant permission for any child under the age of 18 to use an Internet workstation at the library.

DISCLAIMER

The internet, as an information resource, enables the library to provide information beyond the confines of its own collection. It allows access to ideas, information and commentary from around the world. Information access through the Internet is not warranted by the library to be accurate, authoritative, factual, or complete. It is the patron's responsibility to verify the accuracy of any material found on the Internet.

Internet resources may contain material of a controversial nature. Selection policies that serve to govern the library's purchase of materials are not applicable to materials accessed electronically. The library cannot censor access to material nor protect users from offensive information. It is the responsibility of the user, parent, or legal guardian to determine what is inappropriate. The W. G. Rhea Public Library does not monitor or have control over content on the Internet. However, if it is determined that a patron is violating others' rights by viewing inappropriate material, or is behaving in an inappropriate manner, the patron will no longer be allowed access to the Internet workstation. The library assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from use of its connection to the Internet.

GUIDELINES

- Internet access will be close **30 minutes before the library close. All printing must be completed at that time and files closed.**

- Users must respect all U. S. Copyright laws and licensing agreements pertaining to software, files and other resources obtained via the Internet.
- **Printed copies made on the library printer will be \$.25 per page for black and white copies. Patrons will be responsible for all pages printed, even if they are not exactly as expected by the patron.**
- Each Internet user must have a valid library card before he/she will be allowed to use the Internet workstation. Photo ID will be accepted for guests and out-of-town visitors only.
- All Internet resources accessible through the library are provided to all users. There is no age limit for use of any material provided on the Internet. Anyone under 18 has access to the same resources as adults. **It is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian to decide what resources are appropriate for their children. A consent form signed by a parent or legal guardian is necessary for anyone under 18 to have access to the Internet workstation.**
- Downloading of images or files from the Internet to the computer's hard drive is strictly prohibited. **Patrons may purchase a USB from the circulation desk for in downloading files, or may provide own USB.** Any patron violating this guideline will be asked to immediately leave the workstation. All unsecured files will be purged from the computer upon logout of system.
- In accordance with the *Tennessee Code Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 9*, sending, receiving, or displaying text or graphics which may be reasonably construed as obscene by community standards is prohibited.¹ Any patron violating this guideline will be asked to immediately leave the workstation, and any further Internet access will be denied.
- All federal, state, and local laws remain in effect. This includes, but is not limited to laws governing copyrights, gambling, and display of pornographic materials. Any person violating this guideline will be asked to immediately leave the workstation, and any further Internet will be denied. The patron may also be subject to criminal prosecution.

¹ A copy of the *Tennessee Code Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 9* is available for viewing at the circulation desk.

WIRELESS INTERNET POLICIES

- All persons accessing the Wireless Internet via the Library must comply with the current W. G. Rhea Public Library Internet Policies for the Internet use.
- The Internet is provided free of charge via the Library public access points.
- The Library Wireless connection is unencrypted and unfiltered. In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act(H.R. 4577), the Library users 17 years of age and under cannot access the Internet using the wireless connection.
- Use of the Library wireless connection is at the patron's own risk. Information sent to and from a device using the wireless connection can be captured by anyone using a wireless device and the appropriate software.
- The Library staff cannot configure users' devices. The Library will not accept the liability of handling the equipment.
- The Library is not responsible for any changes made to Patron's settings to access the wireless network.
- Printing is available via the wireless connection.

ETHICAL GUIDELINES

All users of electronic information resources are expected to use these resources in a responsible manner, consistent with the educational and information purposes for which they are provided. It is unacceptable to use the library's computer system and Internet resources for any of the following: Misuse, as stated below, will result in the loss of computer privileges:

- Destruction or damage to equipment, software, or data belonging to the library.
- Disruption or interference of network users or services. Such interference includes, but is not limited to: Distribution of unsolicited advertising; harassment; libeling; or slandering of others; propagation of computer viruses or malware.
- Tampering with computer settings, changing or adding files to the computer, or otherwise sabotaging the library's equipment.

WG Rhea Public Library adheres to the Children's Internet Protection Act H.R. 4577 dated December 15,2000. A copy is available for Patron review.

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