



TOWN OF MANSFIELD
MANSFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY DEPARTMENTAL POLICY MEMORANDUM

Approved by: Leslie B. McDonough, Library Director
Effective Date: July 1, 2018, Approved June 12, 2018
Subject: Internet Access and Use Policy

Internet access enables the Mansfield Public Library to greatly enhance its information services beyond the scope of traditional collections and resources.

The Internet is a vast and unregulated global information network that enables library users to access ideas, information, images and text beyond the confines of the Library's collection, mission, selection criteria and collection development policies. The Mansfield Public Library does not control the information accessible through the Internet and does not accept responsibility for its content.

Internet workstations are located in public areas shared by library users of all ages, backgrounds and sensibilities, so individuals are expected to be considerate of others when accessing potentially offensive information and images. The space surrounding the workstations is "public space," and Internet users are subject to the library's general rules regarding appropriate behavior in the library. Internet computers will not be used for illegal activity, to access illegal materials, or to access web pages or sites that contain materials defined in the Connecticut General Statutes as "obscene" or which would likely "impair the health or morals" of a child under sixteen. Library staff may immediately terminate the Internet session of any individual engaging in these activities. Users must also honor copyright law protection of software, books, articles, and other electronic files or information, as well as electronic licensing agreements.

The Mansfield Public Library complies with the federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) which requires the use of filtering software on public computers to limit children's access to material that is (a) obscene; (b) child pornography; or (c) harmful to minors. For more information on CIPA please visit <https://transition.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/cipa.pdf>

Filtering software may not block all material users might find offensive. The supervision of minor children's use of Library computers and access to the Internet is the sole responsibility of the parent(s) or guardian(s).

For individuals age 17 years and older technology protection measures (filters) may be disabled or minimized for bona fide research or other lawful purposes. Such users will be provided with access to an unfiltered computer without a requirement of an explanation.

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the Mansfield Public Library online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of electronic communications. Specifically, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking", and other

unauthorized disclosure, (b) use and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors, (c) software piracy and violation of copyright or license agreements and (d) attempts to damage or alter equipment, software or hardware configurations.

In keeping with Connecticut General Statutes, the Library shall take reasonable steps to protect the confidentiality of records, electronic or otherwise, that identify individual users and link them to search strategies, sites accessed, or other specific data about the information they retrieved or sought to retrieve. However, all users who release personal information, including personally identifying information, credit card, or bank account numbers, etc. do so at their own risk.

Library staff reserve the right to enforce time limits for users to ensure that fair use of the public computers is available to all.

Internet privileges and/or library privileges may be suspended for misuse, abuse, or illegal use of the Internet, behavior which is disruptive to the operation of the library and/or the quiet enjoyment of the library by others, or because of other violations of this policy.

Library personnel may monitor users' use of the Internet to assure that library policies and procedures are being upheld, and reserve the right to contact law enforcement should it be deemed appropriate.

This policy is available on the library's web page and in paper form by request.