



DEERFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Internet Access Policy

Use of library's computer for Internet access

Information available on the Internet changes and grows by the hour. Like your library, the Internet provides access to a great range of ideas from fact to speculation to fiction. The Deerfield Public Library is not responsible for the accuracy, content, currency, comprehensiveness, or availability of information located through use of these web pages. It is the sole responsibility of any person viewing data found through these links to verify by outside means the accuracy of any information before taking any action. Reference herein to any specific product, organization or service does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement or recommendation. Like the books and other materials in your library, not all information providers will appear to you, and some will probably offend you. That is the nature of information in a free society.

The Library does not select the material on the Internet and has no means or statutory authority to assure that only constitutionally protected material is available on the Internet. The authority to determine what is illegal content rests with the courts as defined in Wisconsin and federal statutes.

Materials on the Internet are free-form. There is no organized layout such as you'll find at the library. As such the bookmarks our library staff have set serve as a comprehensive list of Internet resources. We hope you'll find them relevant as an extension of your library's shared media, reference and community information service. We ask that you DO NOT add or remove any bookmarks and we will continue to update them as new information is available. Our library provides Internet service to our patrons for reference and information. It is not to be used for personal communications such as email, chat rooms, shopping, or gambling without permission from the librarian.

The Deerfield Public Library is pleased to provide this service to the public. Because of limited staff time and knowledge, we ask that you do not attempt to make any changes to system set-up or bring in any personal disks to use with our hardware and software, download programs or information, and change our configurations in any way. If you wish to print any information off these computers, the printer set-up is already configured to match our hardware and software. Please be considerate and do not change these. If you need assistance with any software problems, we ask that you refer to the manuals provided. We ask that you limit your time at the computer to 60 minutes per day.

Supervising Children's Use

The public library, unlike schools, does not serve in loco parentis (in place of a parent). Librarians cannot act in the place of parents in providing constant care and supervision of children as they explore the Internet. Deerfield Public Library supports the right for each family to decide what is appropriate Internet use for their children. The responsibility for what minors

read or view on the Internet rests with parents or guardians. Access, use, or dissemination of information via the Internet in the Library is the responsibility of the user. In the case of minors, it is a joint responsibility of the user and the parent or guardian. Because parents or guardians may feel that information available through the Internet is not suitable for viewing by children in their care, supervision is advised for children under the age of 17 and children must have parental permission to use the Internet. Children eight and under must use the Internet with their accompanying adult.

The following are recommended guidelines for parents and guardians to ensure that children have positive online experiences, whether at home or in the library:

- Use the Internet as a family. Join your children in Internet exploration.
- Explore the wide range of available information and tell your children about sites you consider inappropriate for them.
- Encourage children to use sites recommended on the Library's homepage and counsel them to avoid sites you consider unsuitable.
- Provide guidelines for your children on the amount of time they spend online, just as for television viewing.
- Instruct children NEVER to give out personal information (name, address, password, telephone number, credit card number) online.
- Provide children with guidelines on acceptable use of electronic resources, including email and chat rooms.
- Teach children to be good online consumers. As with print information, consider the source, date, and accuracy of online information.

For more information on children and the Internet see Child Safety on the Information Highway (<http://www.safekids.com/child-safe-search/>) and Teen Safety on the Information Highway (<http://www.safeteens.com/teen-safety-on-info-highway/>) jointly produced by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Interactive Service Organization.

Legal and Acceptable Uses

The library's computers may be used only for legal purposes. Users of all ages must abide by the following restrictions. Unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to the following:

- Transmitting of threatening or harassing materials;
- Libeling, slandering or maliciously offending other users;
- Not respecting the privacy of others by misrepresenting oneself as another user;
- Attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords, or data belonging to others;
- Attempting to crash, degrade performance of or gain unauthorized access to the library's computer systems and networks;
- Modifying or damaging equipment, software or data belonging to the library or other users.
- Exposing children to harmful materials. Sec. 948.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes, among other things, makes it a crime to expose children to pictures or images of nudity, sexually explicit conduct, or physical torture or brutality that appeal to the prurient, shameful or

morbid interests of children, are patently offensive to prevailing adult standards regarding materials suitable for children, or lack serious literary, artistic, political, scientific or educational value for children.

Misuse or abuse of this computer or Internet access will result in suspension of Internet access privileges. Illegal use of computers may also be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities. A patron must request to use the library computer for Internet access by discussing this with the librarian at the circulation desk. At that time the patron will present his valid library card and access to Internet via the libraries computer will be granted. The patron will also verify that he has read and understands the attached agreement.

Copyright

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Reevaluation of Public Access Computer Policy

This policy will be reviewed and amended, if needed, on at least an annual basis.

07/2002