

INTERNET USE POLICY

GUTEKUNST PUBLIC LIBRARY

PURPOSE

Gutekunst Public Library provides access to the Internet as part of its mission: "To satisfy curiosity and support lifelong learning." 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 the right and responsibility of parents or guardians to guide, determine, and monitor 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 Marshall County attorney (Sec. 728.6, Code of Iowa), not with the staff of the Gutekunst Public Library. Public libraries are exempted under Sec. 728.7, Code of Iowa. The availability of information does not constitute endorsement of the content by the Gutekunst Public Library. Gutekunst Public Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through the Internet, or any consequences thereof.

As stated in the American Library Association's *Statement on Library Use of Filtering Software*, "...the use of filtering software to block access to constitutionally protected speech violates the Library Bill of Rights;" therefore, Gutekunst Public Library will not impose blocking or filtering software to limit access to Internet sites. However, library staff can assist users with a list of selected websites that allow filtered searching.

RESPONSIBILITY OF CUSTOMERS

Customers are urged to respect the sensibilities of others when accessing information that may reasonably be offensive to someone else. However, absolute privacy in using the Internet in the library cannot be guaranteed. There exists a possibility of inadvertent viewing by others. The "Conduct in the Library" policy applies to the behavior of customers using the Internet. Access, use or dissemination of information via the Internet in the library is the responsibility of the customer.

Customers handling financial transactions or other activities that require confidentiality do so at their own risk. The Internet is not a private environment and security of electronic communication cannot be guaranteed.

Each user is responsible for complying with copyright law and adhering to software licensing agreements, as well as all local, state, and federal laws including, but not limited to, those concerning fraud, privacy, or obscenity. Use of the Library's Internet connection in an illegal, disruptive, or destructive manner, including the pirating of copyrighted material, may result in the loss of Internet or Library privileges.

CONFIDENTIALITY

It is the library's practice not to maintain a history of our customers' computer use. The library will not retrieve any information, including websites visited, passwords or credit card numbers, or any other information a customer has entered. At the end of the business day, all customer computer use and reservation records are erased.

LIBRARY USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

Gutekunst Public Library's social networking sites will be used to inform members about library materials and activities and provide a source for online discussion. The sites will be reviewed and administered by Gutekunst Public Library staff. Consequences for inappropriate behavior on the library's social networking sites are outlined in the library's "Conduct in the Library" policy.

EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN

Concerns will be dealt with promptly and courteously. The appropriate staff will first discuss the concern with the individual or group. After discussion, if the individual or group wishes, they may discuss their concerns with the library director. After discussion with the library director, if an individual or group is still concerned, they may submit an official complaint to the Library Board of Trustees using the "Statement of Concern about Library Resources" form.

FORMAL COMPLAINT PROCESS

The official complaint on the "Statement of Concern about Library Resources" form will be considered by the Library Board of Trustees at a regular meeting. At the meeting, the individual or group may present their comments following the procedures outlined in the Gutekunst Public Library "Public Participation" policy. The library director presents a staff response. The Library Board of Trustees will make a final ruling on the concern. A written response will be sent to the individual or group.

INTERNET USE GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

The public library does not serve *in loco parentis* (in place of a parent). Librarians cannot act in the place of parents providing constant care and supervision of children as they explore the Internet. The responsibility for what minors read or view on the Internet rests with parents or guardians.

WIRELESS

The library provides free, unsecured, wireless Internet access for public use. The library does not provide support for privately owned personal wireless devices. Security for personal wireless devices rests solely with the owner of the wireless device. Personal use of the library's public wireless access will conform with policies regulating other types of public Internet access provided by the library.

RESERVING COMPUTERS

Computers may be reserved in person, on a first come, first served basis, in half hour increments. If you are not at the computer at your reserved time, we are unable to reserve the computer for you. Two people may share a computer. If no one is waiting to use the computer, you may continue to use it until someone else wants it.

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