

## **Rosemary Garfoot Public Library Internet Use Policy**

### **Purpose and Disclaimer:**

The Rosemary Garfoot Public Library provides access to a wide range of information resources, including those accessible through the Internet. The Library makes this service available in keeping with the Library's mission to provide materials and services which meet the informational, educational and recreational needs of all people.

The Internet offers access to information, ideas and commentary from around the globe that can be personally, professionally and culturally enriching. However, not all sources on the Internet are accurate, comprehensive or up-to-date. Individuals could inadvertently access information they find personally offensive or unsettling. The Library staff and Board do not monitor, have control over or accept responsibility for the content of materials provided on the Internet. Availability of networked information via library terminals does not constitute the library's endorsement of the content of that information. The library does not guarantee information accessed on the Internet to be authoritative, factual, accurate, timely or useful for patrons' objectives. If any patron believes information obtained via library terminals is inaccurate or offensive, the patron should contact the original producer or distributor of the information.

The Library does not select material available 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 federal statutes.

**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 parent or guardian. Parents or guardians may believe information available through the Internet is not suitable for viewing by children in their care, therefore, supervision is advised.**

### **Responsibilities of Users**

#### Choosing and Evaluating Sources:

Users should evaluate Internet sources just as they do print materials, questioning the accuracy and completeness of the information.

Users utilize the Internet at their own risk, with the realization that they may encounter material they deem offensive.

Viewing materials deemed pornographic in nature is prohibited (see below – *Sec. 948.11* of the

*Wisconsin Statutes* pertinent to children's exposure to harmful materials on the Internet) and will result in suspension of Internet use privileges.

### 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. The Rosemary Garfoot Public Library supports the right for each family to deem what is appropriate Internet use for their children. The responsibility for what minors read or view on the Internet rests with parents or guardians.

Parents or legal guardians are responsible for determining what library materials are suitable for their children. Restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of a parent or guardian.

Parents or guardians are responsible for monitoring their children's Internet sessions.

Parents or guardians are responsible for informing their children that there are materials on the Internet they don't want their children to access.

For more information on children and the Internet see [Child Safety on the Information Highway](#) produced by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Inter-active Service Organization.

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 vast range of available information and tell your children about sites you consider appropriate for them.

Counsel children to avoid sites you consider inappropriate.

Provide guidelines for your children on the amount of time they spend online, just as for television viewing.

Instruct children to NEVER give out personal information (name, address, password, telephone number, credit card number) online.

Provide children with guidelines on acceptable use of electronic resources, including E-mail and chat rooms.

Teach children to be good online consumers. As with print information, consider the source, date and accuracy of online information.

## **Library Assistance**

The Library will provide training on electronic resources. It will also make information available to parents and guardians in their efforts to exercise their rights and responsibilities regarding their own children's use of electronic resources. For more information on children and the Internet see Child Safety on the Information Highway ([http://www.safekids.com/child\\_safety.htm](http://www.safekids.com/child_safety.htm)) and Teen Safety on the Information Highway (<http://www.safekids.com/safeteens/safeteens.htm>) jointly produced by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Interactive Service Organization.

Parents and children are encouraged to start their exploration of the Internet with the SCLS homepage and Reference Links on the Kids Page. Children will discover Kid Friendly Search Engines and Web Sites for children, selected by children's librarians, through these recommended links.

## **Legal and Acceptable Uses**

The Library's computers may only be used for legal purposes.

Examples of unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to the following:

- Harassment of other users or violation of their right to privacy;
- Libeling, slandering or maliciously offending other users;
- Violation of copyright laws or software licensing agreements;
- Obstruction of other user's work by monopolizing system resources.
- Attempting to crash, degrade performance of or gain unauthorized access to the Library's computer systems and networks (*Sec. 943.70 of the Wisconsin Statutes*, provides that the aforementioned actions are deemed a felony if the offense causes an interruption or impairment of governmental operations;
- Damaging equipment, software or data belonging to the Library or other users;
- Attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords, or data belonging to others;
- Misrepresenting oneself as another user.

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.

These restrictions also apply in E-mail and chat room environments accessed through library computers. If an individual or group of Internet users creates a disturbance limiting the effective use of the library by others, they will be asked to correct their behavior, disband

and/or leave the building as appropriate.

Patrons may reserve time on the Internet on a first-come-first-serve basis up to 1 hour per week. If the computer is available, additional time may be granted, at staff discretion.

### Guidelines for Computer Use

The library uses Library Online management software which allows patrons to access computers with a valid library card or temporary card provided by the library.

Patrons are allowed one hour of use per day, however, more time may be allotted for special requests such as online exams, word processing, job searches, etc.

Library Online allows patrons to register for advanced bookings.

Users eight years or younger, must be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, care taker or sibling over twelve years of age to use a computer. The child may not be left alone in the library.

Downloading information from the Internet is not permitted.

Bookmarking Internet sites is not permitted.

Chat room dialogues are permitted.

Violations may result in loss of Internet or Library privileges. Illegal uses of computers may also be subject to prosecution by local, state or federal authorities.

The Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility ensuing from access to or use of information procured through its electronic information systems or any consequences thereof.

The Rosemary Garfoot Public Library is not responsible for injuries or damages to possessions of individuals or groups resulting from use of computers.

## **Copyright**

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## **Reevaluation of Public Computer Policy**

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

Adopted 6/27/2002

Revised 3/27/2007

Revised 9/21/2010

This document was revised and reviewed accordingly on 7/21/2015

This document was revised and reviewed accordingly on 9/20/2016

This document was revised and reviewed accordingly on 3/20/2018