



WESTMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY

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westmontlibrary.org

Providing the community with the keys to lifelong learning.

Public Use of the Internet Policy

Purpose

The Westmont Public Library provides access to a broad range of information resources, including those available through the internet. This service is made available as part of the library's mission to provide patrons with the keys to lifelong learning. The purpose of the Public Use of the Internet Policy is to set guidelines for internet use while ensuring patrons have access to an important source of information and communication.

Internet Access

Library patrons have the right to equitable access to library resources including computers and internet access. The library board has adopted the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights and endorses an individual's right of access to information. As such, the library does not filter its computers. Library patrons have the right to confidentiality in the public use of the internet to the extent possible given proximity of other patrons, staff, and multiple patron use of workstations.

User Agreement

By using internet and/or wireless services through the library, users agree to abide by the Public Use of the Internet Policy as adopted by the Westmont Public Library Board of Trustees. All users are expected to access and use the internet in a lawful and responsible manner. Violations of the library's policy and procedures may result in the loss of access privileges and may also be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities. Examples of prohibited activities include but are not limited to:

- use of internet in any way which violates a local, state, or federal law including copyright law
- use of internet for any purpose which results in the harassment of other users
- viewing pornography, which is considered by most people to be inappropriate for a public setting where minors may be present
- destruction of, damage to, or unauthorized alteration of the library's computer equipment software or network security procedures
- propagation of malicious software
- installation of software on library computers
- use of internet in any way which violates licensing and payment agreements between the library and network/database providers

Furthermore, by using the internet services through the Westmont Public Library, users agree that the library will not be held responsible for:

- any indirect, consequential, special, or punitive damages or losses which may arise in their use of the internet

- accuracy, appropriateness, or suitability of any materials or information retrieved, displayed, or printed
- the loss or corruption of a patron's files or damage to devices

Children and Public Use of the Internet

As with library materials, restriction or regulation of a child's access to the internet is the right and responsibility of the parent or legal guardian. The Westmont Public Library supports the right of all library users to access information. However, because the library recognizes that the internet may contain material that is inappropriate for children, children in or below 5th grade must have consent from a parent/legal guardian, which may be granted verbally each time the child wishes to use the internet or via the issuance of a youth library card, in order to gain internet access. Parents/legal guardians may disallow their minor child's access to internet enabled computers by informing library staff. Non-cardholders who are minors in or below 5th grade can obtain a guest pass only with parental/legal guardian consent.

Library staff is unable to monitor children's internet use; therefore, it is the responsibility of parents/legal guardians to monitor and supervise their children's use of the internet. Parents/legal guardians are encouraged to discuss with their children issues of appropriate use and internet safety. No child under the age of eight (8) may be left unsupervised per the Library Use and Conduct Policy.

Information Resources

The Westmont Public Library urges library patrons to carefully evaluate information obtained via the internet in order to be informed consumers. Library staff may be available to assist patrons in making judgments about the reliability or currency of certain types of internet information sources, but are unable to provide definitive analysis of particular sources. It is up to the user to determine the accuracy of information retrieved from internet sources.