MARION
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Internet Use Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this Internet Use Policy is to establish guidelines for the appropriate use of the Internet and related technologies at the Marion Public Library. The library provides free access to the Internet to support the educational, informational, and recreational needs of the community. Users must adhere to this policy to ensure that all patrons can access and use the library's Internet resources in a safe, productive, and respectful manner.

General Guidelines

1. **Access to the Internet**
   - The Marion Library provides Internet access to patrons free of charge.
   - Access to the Internet is available on library computers and through the library's wireless network.
   - Access is granted on a first-come, first-served basis, and usage is subject to availability.
2. **Acceptable Use**
   - The Internet should be used for legal, educational, informational, and recreational purposes only.
   - Users should act in a manner that does not disrupt other patrons' use of the library's resources or cause damage to library equipment.
   - Users must comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws while using the Internet.
3. **Unacceptable Use** The following activities are strictly prohibited:
   - Engaging in any illegal activity, including accessing, distributing, or creating illegal content (e.g., child pornography, pirated software, hacking).
   - Accessing inappropriate or harmful content, including but not limited to content that is obscene, harassing, threatening, or discriminatory.
   - Using the Internet to engage in fraudulent activities or scams, such as phishing or identity theft.
   - Sending unsolicited emails (spam) or engaging in disruptive online behavior, including harassment or cyberbullying.
   - Installing or attempting to install any software, programs, or files that may damage library computers or interfere with other users.
   - Unauthorized access to library systems or networks, or the attempt to bypass security measures.

- o   Using library resources to engage in commercial activities, solicitations, or advertising.
4. **Time Limits**
   - o   Users are typically permitted to use library computers for an uninterrupted duration of time.
   - o   Time limits of 30 minutes may be enforced during periods of high demand, or based on the availability of open computers.
   - o   The library reserves the right to limit usage to ensure fair access for all patrons.
5. **Privacy and Security**
   - o   Users are responsible for maintaining the privacy and security of their personal data when using library computers or wireless networks. The library is not responsible for any loss of personal information, data breaches, or security issues that may arise during internet use.
   - o   The library does not monitor users' internet activity. However, users should be aware that library computers are in public spaces and may be viewed by other patrons.
   - o   Users should log out of any accounts, such as email or social media, before leaving library computers.
6. **Use of Personal Devices**
   - o   Patrons may connect their own personal devices (e.g., laptops, smartphones, tablets) to the library's wireless network for Internet access.
   - o   The library is not responsible for any loss, theft, or damage to personal devices connected to the network.
7. **Printing and Downloading**
   - o   Printing and downloading are available at the library, and fees may apply. Users are responsible for any printing charges incurred.
   - o   Users should be mindful of the environmental impact and use printing services judiciously.
8. **Staff Assistance**
   - o   Library staff are available to assist with basic Internet navigation and the use of library computers. However, staff are not available for extended technical support.
   - o   Users should be respectful of staff time and prioritize staff assistance for educational and library-related matters.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- Parents or guardians of minors are encouraged to monitor their children's Internet use while at the library. The library does not filter or restrict Internet content for children, and parents are responsible for supervising their children's online activities.
- The library offers resources, including books and programs, to support digital literacy and safe Internet use for children and teens.

Consequences of Violating the Internet Use Policy

- Violation of the Internet Use Policy may result in the suspension or revocation of Internet access privileges at the library.
- Repeated or serious violations may lead to further disciplinary actions, including a ban from library premises or legal action if necessary.

Disclaimer

- The library cannot guarantee the accuracy, availability, or security of online resources. The library is not responsible for any direct or indirect consequences arising from Internet use, including but not limited to data loss, malicious software, or inappropriate content.
- The library may modify or update this policy as needed to ensure compliance with applicable laws and provide a safe and effective Internet environment.

Approved January 21, 2025