

Central City Public Library Internet and Computer Use Policy

The Internet:

The Central City Public Library has no control of the Internet and its resources, and assumes no responsibility for the quality, accuracy, or currency of any Internet resource. The Internet may contain material of controversial nature.

Staff Assistance:

Staff provides limited assistance for basic start up procedures. If patrons have never used computers or have specific questions about the Internet, circulating books are available.

Time Limits:

Use of library computing resources is on a first-come, first-served basis. There will only be a time limit on users if there are other patrons waiting to use the computers. Time limits may vary, based upon number of patrons and computer availability.

Printing:

A printer is available for patron use, the cost of printing is \$.10 per page for black and white printing and \$.25 for color prints. These fees apply regardless of whose paper is used.

E-Mail:

The library does not offer electronic mail accounts.

Ethical Use:

Internet computers may only be used for legal purposes. Unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to: harassment of other users; libeling or slandering other users; destruction of or damage to equipment, software, or data belonging to the library or other users; disruption or unauthorized monitoring of electronic communications; or unauthorized copying of copy-right-protected material.

Responsibilities of Users:

Users are urged to respect the sensibilities of others when accessing information that may reasonably be offensive to someone else. However, absolute privacy in using electronic resources in the Library cannot be guaranteed. There exists a possibility of inadvertent viewing by others.

Access, use, or dissemination of information via the Internet in the Library is the responsibility of the customer.

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 illegal content is rests with the Linn County Attorney or the Iowa Attorney General (Sec. 728.6, Code of Iowa) not with the staff of the Central City 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 Central City Public Library. The Central City Public Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through its electronic resources, or any consequences thereof.

Internet Use Guidelines for Parents and Guardians:

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 responsibility for what minors read or view on the Internet rests with parents or guardians.

The following are recommended guidelines for parents and guardians to ensure that children have positive online experiences, whether at home or 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 web site 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.
- Teach children to be good online consumers. As with print information, consider the sources, date, and accuracy of online information.

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