

Fairport Public Library

Internet Safety Policy Statement

This statement applies to all users of Fairport Public Library computers or networks. If you have any questions about the statement or what it means, please contact a librarian for more information.

Purpose

Fairport Public Library provides access to a broad range of information resources: books, magazines, recordings, electronic databases, as well as those available through the Internet. Based upon the library's Collection Development Statement, we make Internet services available as part of our mission to provide a broadly defined program of informational, educational, and cultural enrichment opportunities for all library users.

Responsibilities of Users

Choosing & Evaluating Sources

The Internet is a global entity with a highly diverse user population and information content. It offers access to many valuable local, national, and international sources of information. However, not all sources on the Internet provide accurate, complete, or current information. Users should evaluate Internet sources just as they do printed publications, questioning the validity of the information provided. The Library does not monitor the information accessed through the Internet nor can the Library protect users from materials they may find offensive.

The Internet Home Page of the Monroe County Library System has been constructed in accordance with generally accepted library practices, and MCLS is responsible for its content.

Fairport Public Library is not responsible for changes in the content of the sources to which we link (through LIBRA), nor for the content of sources accessed through secondary links.

Supervising Children's Use

It is the Library's policy that parents or legal guardians must assume responsibility for deciding what library resources are appropriate for their children. Parents have an additional responsibility to supervise their child's access to the Internet, as there will be some resources that are inappropriate for children. Parents should let their children know if there are materials that they do not want them to use.

In providing public access to the Internet, the Fairport Public Library shall be in compliance with the Monroe County Library System implementation of the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (NCIPA). Per this compliance:

- As required by NCIPA, the Library will, to the extent practical, block access to visual images that are defined by law as "obscene," "child pornography," or "harmful to minors."
- To provide safe and secure use by minors and to prevent unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors, *email*, *chat rooms* and *instant messaging functions* will not be available to minors, except in cases where such activity is associated with a library-sponsored, adult-supervised program or event.
- Subject to staff supervision, filtering will be disabled for those over 18 years of age only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Users are reminded that the Library's ability to restrict access to images and information covered by NCIPA is subject to the limitations of filtering software. Even the best of filtering software cannot guarantee that minors will not access objectionable images. The Library's above stated policy to comply with provisions of NCIPA shall not relieve parents and legal guardians of their ultimate responsibility to monitor and guide their own children's use of all library resources, including the Internet. Parents are encouraged to take an active role in their children's use of the Internet and to talk about their personal values and expectations for their children's use of this resource. Fairport Public Library does not have the right or the responsibility to act *in loco parentis*.

General Rules and Limits Regarding Internet Access

Fairport Public Library provides access to the Internet as resources permit. The Library does not currently offer individual electronic mail accounts, nor does it subscribe to newsgroups, due to considerations of cost, time, and system management.

1. Use of the Internet or library computers for activities that violate local, state, or federal laws is prohibited. This includes activities such as committing fraud, hacking, or spreading libel or slander.
2. Patrons are cautioned that the Internet is not a secure medium and all transactions, files, and communications may be subject to unauthorized access by third parties. The library, however, will not release information on the use of electronic resources by members of the public except as required by law.
3. It is the responsibility of all users of electronic resources at the Fairport Public Library to respect intellectual property rights. Copyright restrictions may exist for individual electronic resources. Patrons may only make copies allowable by copyright laws or licensed software agreements.
4. Users of the Library's computers and related peripheral equipment are expected to abide by the rules of the library, including the Rules of Conduct. Copies of these rules are available upon request at the Information Desk. In accordance with the authority of the Fairport Public Library Board of Trustees, persons who do not abide by these rules may be barred from the library, prohibited from using computers or other library equipment and/or prosecuted for illegal activities.
5. The Fairport 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.
6. Library staff members are not able to provide in-depth computer training but will answer questions and, as time allows, help users locate and use resources on the Internet or on other electronic resources in the library.
7. To provide the opportunity for the maximum number of people to access library Internet workstations, the Fairport Public Library shall establish daily time limits for Internet access as part of their Internet procedures.
8. In cases where Internet filtering software is disabled to facilitate legitimate research by patrons, the Library reserves the right to control the time, place and manner of such access to ensure that such use does not have a negative impact on the use of the library by other patrons. The library seeks to provide an atmosphere conducive to the best use of its resources. To this end, an effort will be made to balance the rights of users to access information resources with the rights of users and staff to work in a public setting free from disruptive sounds and visuals.
9. Patrons are reminded that the library's computer terminals are located in public areas, which are shared with library users and staff of all ages, backgrounds and sensibilities. Individuals are expected to consider this diversity and respect the sensibilities of others when accessing potentially offensive information or images.
10. At each Internet session, users shall be required to login using their own last name and library card number. Temporary Internet access cards will be issued to those adult patrons who cannot obtain a valid library card.

Copyright

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