

WADSWORTH LIBRARY ACCEPTABLE COMPUTER USE POLICY

MISSION – In keeping with the Wadsworth Library’s mission to provide free and open access to information, ideas, and knowledge through books, programs, technology and other resources, the library offers public access to the Internet. Internet access is filtered in compliance with federal e-rate requirements.

Scope of this service – A varied selection of programs is available for public use including free access to the Internet. Information gathering and research will be the Internet’s primary purpose in this library.

Eligibility – Any adult with a valid OWWL Library card who has not reached the maximum fine amount of \$5.00 or is not blocked for any reason may use a computer in accordance with established procedures and policies in effect. Adults who are traveling through the area may use computers as a guest but are expected to abide by established procedures and policies in effect. Each user must sign in at the charge desk to access a computer. Users under the age of 18 must have a parent’s signature on his/her library card application. Anyone 12 years old or older who has a valid OWWL Library card may use an Internet computer alone. Anyone under the age of 12 must have an adult who sits with him/her at the same Internet computer at all times. Children of any age may use the computers in the Children’s room without an adult. These computers do not have Internet access.

Rights of Users – The Internet is not a secure medium and all transactions, files and communications may be subject to unauthorized access by third parties. The library respects a patron’s right to both confidentiality and privacy and will not release information on the use of electronic resources by members of the public except as required by law.

Use of the Internet by minors – The library supports the American Library Association Library Bill of Rights, including those that deal with intellectual freedom, as well as the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The library affirms that it is the right and responsibility of parents to supervise their children’s use of library materials, including Internet access. To the extent possible, library staff will monitor the use of the online activities by minors in accordance with this policy and the Neighborhood Children’s Internet Protection Act. The unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors is prohibited.

Responsibility – All users or in the case of those under 18, users’ parents, will be held fiscally responsible for any damage to the computers, related equipment or software caused by inappropriate use of the equipment or software. Abuse of the equipment or the service will result in the user being denied further access to the service. Malicious damage may result in prosecution. All use of the computer system must comply with acceptable use guidelines.

Disclaimer – The library is not responsible for any damage to or loss of data resulting from the use of our computers. We have no control over the availability of our network access, or the inability to connect to any site due to excessive traffic on the Internet, or the availability of information links, which change frequently. The library is not responsible for the quality of information found on the Internet. Users are responsible for evaluating data received.

Telecommunications Act, the Neighborhood Children’s Internet Protection Act, Copyright Law and Legal Issues–

Use of the Internet for activities that violate local, state or federal laws is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to activities such as viewing child pornography, committing fraud, hacking, unauthorized access or spreading libel or slander.

Telecommunications Act of 1996, Section 502: The Wadsworth Library does not condone nor will it tolerate the use of library computer resources to break any law, including, but not limited to, the Telecommunications Decency Act: “Whoever in interstate or foreign communications by means of a telecommunications device knowingly makes, creates, or solicits, and initiates transmission of, any comment, request, suggestion, proposal, image, or other communication which is obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, or indecent, with intent to annoy, abuse, threaten , or harass another person;...shall be fined under Title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned not more than two years, or both.” Computer resources may only be used for legal purposes. Since the public Internet workstations are in view of other patrons and staff, users are not permitted to display any visual images containing nudity, obscenity, or graphic violence. Patrons will receive one warning regarding this rule; another violation will result in permanent loss of Internet privileges at the library. Acceptability of screen displays will be left to the discretion of the supervising library staff.

Neighborhood Children’s Internet Protection Act: It is the policy of the library to comply with the Neighborhood Children’s Internet Protection Act by following the policies and procedures regarding computer use accepted by the Library Board of Trustees.

Copyright Law, Title 17, U.S. Code: Most of the library’s software is protected under the Copyright Laws of the United States of America. Software piracy is a federal crime punishable under this law.

Policy adopted at a public meeting following normal public notice: 5/10/07.
Library Board of Trustees