Public Access to the Internet Policy

Pleasanton Public Library's mission is to be the place for all members in the community to "Discover, Connect, and Share." To fulfill this mission, the Library provides free and equal access to resources in a variety of formats to meet the cultural, informational, recreational and educational needs of the diverse community it serves. The Internet is an integral part of resource access.

However, not all information provided through internet sources is accurate, complete, or current, and may be dangerous or offensive to some people. The Library assumes no responsibility for the content or accuracy of information obtained through internet sources. The Library assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from its connections to the internet. It should be understood that internet use in a public environment, such as the Pleasanton Library, inhibits any guarantee of privacy. Moreover, all transactions, files and communications may be vulnerable to unauthorized access such as computer hacking by third parties or transmission of compromised data use and, therefore, should be considered public.

Children and the Internet

The Pleasanton Public Library supports parents and guardians in their efforts to guide their children's intellectual and social development. As is the case with other resources in the Library, it is the sole right and responsibility of the parent or guardian to provide any monitoring or restriction of their own child's access to the internet.

Parents or legal guardians are therefore responsible for the following:

1. Monitoring their minor's access to content on the internet. The Library cannot control sites that children may select on the internet, and staff cannot act in place of a parent or guardian to do so.

2. Supervising the safety and security of their minor(s) when using email, social media platforms, instant messaging, and other forms of electronic communications.

3. Preventing unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding their minor(s).

4. Preventing unauthorized access, including "hacking," and other unlawful activities by their minor(s) while online.

5. Avoiding a minor's access to materials that a parent or guardian deems harmful to their minor by monitoring all internet use.

Filtering

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "internet filters") are used to block or filter the internet, or other forms of electronic communications, or access to inappropriate information.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking is applied in the children's area of the Library to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors. Persons wishing to access the internet without these filters are directed to use the computers in the adult area of the Library. Again, Library staff will not prevent a minor from using the computers in the adult area of the Library.

Rules Governing Use

Users of the internet in the Library are expected to use this resource in a responsible and courteous manner, consistent with the purposes for which it is provided, and to abide by any internet-specific rules, regulations and procedures established for its use.

To provide an atmosphere that permits proper use of Library resources, Internet users are not allowed to gather in groups of more than two people per terminal. This rule applies to both desktop and laptop computers being used in the Library building. Library users are asked to respect the privacy of internet users and to refrain from watching over someone's shoulder or otherwise intentionally observing a stranger's use. Time limits for use of terminals are posted in the Library.

Users may not:

• Use the Library's internet terminals for illegal purposes.

• Make any attempt to alter or damage computer hardware or software.

 • Use the computers to make unauthorized entry into other networks or systems.

• Invade the privacy of others or send harassing or threatening messages.

• Use the Library's internet terminals to view or disseminate illegal images.

• Make unauthorized copies of copyrighted or licensed software or data.

Violations may result in loss of internet privileges. Any illegal activity involving the Library's internet connections will be subject to prosecution by the appropriate authorities.