

WAUKESHA PUBLIC LIBRARY

POLICY: WORLD WIDE WEB ACCESS POLICY

Approved by Library Board: 2/10/11

Number: A-7

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Waukesha Public Library Strategic Plan Technology Objective: "... The Library will also strive to offer new technologies as appropriate in order to continue to meet changing needs, offer information in its most convenient format, and allow uniform access to technologies that enhance the individual's capacity to reach his or her full potential."

The library staff develops collections, services, and resources to fulfill this mission. The Waukesha Public Library recognizes that free public access to electronic information resources provides the library with an opportunity to fulfill the library's mission in expanding the scope of the information available to community citizens.

The World Wide Web (hereafter referred to as "the Web") is one component of the Internet, a vast network of computer networks linking millions of computers. It offers access to ideas, information, and opinion from around the world. However, the Web is an ungoverned and unregulated medium. The Library is responsible only for the information on its home page. The Library does not monitor and has limited control over the information that may be accessible through other sites on the Web. In choosing and using Web sources, customers should evaluate them just as they do print sources, questioning the accuracy and completeness of the information.

On in-house public access computers, the Library Board has chosen to install filtering software that blocks access to certain sites. This is done in an attempt to make the Web content that is accessed at the Library most closely approximate the types of materials that are selected for the Library's collection. Since the library does not promote particular beliefs or views, the electronic resources, along with the rest of the collection, will contain various positions on important questions, including unpopular or unorthodox positions

Customers should be aware that no filtering software is totally effective in this electronic environment, which changes rapidly and unpredictably. A customer may request that staff re-evaluate access to a specific site if he or she disagrees with the filtering software's handling of that site. Responsibility for choosing what a customer will read or view rests with the customer. Responsibility for the use of the Web by children and young adults, as with other library materials, rests with their parents or legal guardians. Parents are encouraged to discuss with their children appropriate use of Web resources and to supervise their children's Web sessions.

The primary purpose of the Library's public access computers is to supplement and extend its print, non-print, and electronic collections of information materials. They are not intended to be used for any activities that do not correspond to the Library's mission and service program. The Library staff may impose procedural restrictions, such as time limits and sign-ups, on the use of Library public access computers in order to insure more

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equitable sharing of computers. While respecting an individual customer's right to privacy whenever possible, staff have the right to monitor use of public access computers to ensure compliance with this policy. Inappropriate or illegal, or unacceptable use of this resource is prohibited and can result in the loss of Web or Library privileges. Examples of prohibited uses include, but are not limited to: accessing files, passwords, or data belonging to others; damaging or altering hardware or software; attempting to bypass any library-installed software or filters in order to gain additional and/or inappropriate access, unauthorized reproduction of copyrighted, licensed, or other protected material; misrepresenting oneself as another customer; harassing or interfering with other library customers; violation of any local, state, federal, or international laws.

Copyright law prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials, except as permitted by the principles of fair use. Any responsibility for consequences arising from copyright infringement or any other illegal use lies with the customer.

The Waukesha Public Library assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from the use of its public access computers and web connection. The Waukesha Public Library assumes no responsibility for any loss or damage to customer's data or devices, nor for any personal damage or injury incurred as a result of using the Waukesha Public Library's public access computers. This includes damage or injury sustained from invasions of the customer's privacy.

Customers should also be aware that the provisions of the above policy, including filtering and unacceptable use provisions also apply to access to the Internet via library-supplied wireless connection.

Library customers whose cards have been blocked will lose public access computer privileges until the condition causing the block has been resolved. (per Policy C-6, Fees, Charges and Fines)

Library customers who have been referred to the collection agency due to unreturned materials, fines, replacement charges, or damage charges (per Policy C-7, Unreturned Library Materials), will lose public access computer privileges until unreturned materials are returned and all fines and charges on the account are paid in full.

This policy will be printed and made available at all public access computers.