Internet/Computer Policy

The Sumner Public Library's internet workstations are intended to provide access to valuable information resources. The Library has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. Individuals must accept responsibility for evaluating content. As with other library materials, the library affirms responsibility of parents or guardians to guide their children's use of the Internet.

Responsibilities of the Library

- The Sumner Public Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through the Internet, or any consequences thereof.

- As stated in the American Library Association's Statement on Library Use of Filtering Software, "the use of filtering software to block access to constitutionally protected speech violates the Library Bill of Rights," therefore, The Sumner Public Library will not impose blocking or filtering software to limit access to Internet sites.

- The Library accepts no responsibility for damage to users' computers or other devices or for the loss of any data that may occur from the use of the Library's computers or Internet service.

Responsibility of Patrons

- Privacy in using the Internet in the library cannot be guaranteed. There exists a possibility of inadvertent viewing by others. Patrons are urged to respect the sensibilities of others when accessing information that may reasonably be offensive to someone else.

- Access, use, or dissemination of information via the Internet in the library is the responsibility of the patron. It is illegal to use the library's computers to access, view, print, distribute, display, send or receive images or graphics of material that violates state or federal laws (Sec. 728.2, Code of Iowa), including those relating to child pornography.

- As with other library materials, the library affirms the parents' or guardians' right and responsibility to guide, determine, and monitor their children's use of the Internet. Library staff assumes that those under age 18 have parental permission to use library resources, including the Internet, unless notified otherwise by the parent or legal guardian.

- Supervision must be provided for children under the age of ten.

- The "Conduct in the Library" policy applies to the behavior of patrons using the Internet.

Computer/Internet Use

- The library reserves the right to deny access to the Internet or any other library equipment or service to anyone who does not comply with library policies and guidelines.

- Users are not permitted to permanently delete or modify any library software or hardware, nor to install any software, download any programs, or save any files onto the library computers. Misuse of the computer or Internet may result in the loss of computer privileges.

- Before accessing a computer, users must check out a computer card at the circulation desk.

- Computer use is limited to one patron per computer. Library staff may grant permission to two registered users as long as other patrons are not disturbed.

- Users will be limited to a total of one hour of Internet use per day. Users will be asked to discontinue use of the Internet fifteen minutes before closing time each day.

- There is a per page charge for printed items. Current cost will be displayed on printer.

- Any cost incurred to the hardware through negligence, carelessness or deliberate misuse will be assessed to the user.

- Data must be printed or saved to a portable storage device or service before the end of the user's session or it will be lost. Files may be saved to portable storage devices (CD/DVD, thumb drive, etc.). Some computers may not accept all portable storage devices. If in doubt, please ask a Librarian for assistance.

- Users are expected to have basic computer skills. Whenever possible, staff will attempt to answer computer related questions. However, patrons with complex questions or tasks requiring significant time and/or instruction from staff may, at the discretion of the supervising Librarian, be required to schedule an appointment for individual assistance. Because of scheduling constraints, trained staff may not be available at all times.

- Library staff will provide only basic assistance. Staff will not troubleshoot or alter settings on individual laptops, smartphones, tablets, or other devices.

Confidentiality

- The Internet is not a secure, private environment. Patrons handling financial transactions or other activities that require confidentiality do so at their own risk.

- It is the library's practice not to maintain a history of our patrons' computer use. The library will not retrieve any information, including web sites visited, passwords or credit card numbers, or any other information a patron has entered. At the end of the business day, all patron computer use and reservation records are erased.

Wireless

- The library provides free, unsecured wireless Internet access for public use. The library does not provide technical support for privately-owned personal wireless devices. Security for personal wireless devices rests solely with the owner of the wireless device. Personal use of the library's public wireless access will conform to policies regulating other types of public Internet access provided by the library.

- Any cost incurred to the hardware through negligence, carelessness or deliberate misuse will be assessed to the user.

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