

DRAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY
INTERNET USAGE and WIRELESS POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of public access to the Internet is to augment the library's collection and to support the community's informational needs, life-long learning opportunities, and cultural and leisure activities. The library has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. As with other library materials the library affirms responsibility of parents or guardians to guide their children's use of the Internet.

Confidentiality

The Internet is not a secure, private environment. The library cannot guarantee confidentiality over the Internet. Library users handling financial transactions or other activities that require confidentiality do so at their own risk. In general, electronic communication is not absolutely secure and is subject to outside intervention.

It is the library's practice not to maintain a history of an individual's computer use. The library will not retrieve any information, including web sites visited, passwords or credit card numbers, or any other information a user has entered. Usage history is erased at the end of each individual computer session.

Responsibilities of the Library

The library has no means or statutory authority to assure that only constitutionally protected material is accessed by the public. The authority to determine what is obscene rests with the court system of Iowa (Sec. 728.6, Code of Iowa¹). The availability of information does not constitute endorsement of the content by Drake Community Library. Library staff may require that a user cease Internet use if such use is considered to be disruptive to the library environment.

Drake Community 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;"² The American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights is incorporated into the By-Laws of Drake Community Library. The library will not censor access to material and is not responsible for the availability or accuracy of information found on the Internet.

The library provides high-speed Internet access but cannot guarantee uninterrupted service.

¹ Code of Iowa: containing all statutes of a general and permanent nature. Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1924-

² "Statement on Library Use of Filtering Software", American Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee, July 1, 1997; Rev. November 17, 2000

The library complies with the United States Copyright Law, and all other federal, state, and local laws relating to the use of the Internet and other electronic media.

The library is not responsible for work or information lost due to computer or system malfunction.

Responsibilities of Library Users

Privacy in using the Internet in the library cannot be guaranteed. There exists a possibility of inadvertent viewing by others. Users are urged to respect the sensibilities of others when accessing information that may reasonably be offensive to someone else. Library staff may require that a user cease Internet use if such use is considered to be disruptive to the library environment.

Access, use, or dissemination of information via the Internet in the library is the responsibility of the user. It is illegal to use the library's computers to access, view, print, distribute, display, send, or receive material that violates state or federal laws (Sec. 728.2, Code of Iowa³), including those relating to child pornography and content that is obscene or "harmful to minors."⁴

Users may download information to a personal storage device.

Users may not install personal software on library computers.

Users may not make any attempt to alter, damage, or cause degradation to library equipment or system performance.

Wireless Internet Use

The library provides free, unsecured, wireless Internet access for public use. 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.

The Drake Community Library's Internet and Wireless Policy is part of the library's overall policy structure and should be interpreted in conjunction with other existing policies.

Adopted: 01/14 (replaces the DCL Internet Usage Policy and the DCL Wireless Policy)

Reviewed: 12/16, 01/20

³ Code of Iowa: containing all statutes of a general and permanent nature. Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1924-

⁴ "Guidelines for Internet Acceptable Use Policies : Public Libraries", American Library Association, <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/iftoolkits/litoolkit/internetusepolicies>, 12/31/2019.