



KENOSHA PUBLIC LIBRARY

INTERNET POLICY

The Board of Trustees of the Kenosha Public Library adopts and makes public the following written policies.

Access to Internet Resources

The Kenosha Public Library ensures that its customers have the right and means to free and open access to ideas and information which are fundamental to a democracy. The Library protects intellectual freedom, promotes literacy, encourages lifelong learning, and provides information resources and library materials in a variety of formats that represent varying views.

The Library's computer system, through the Internet, provides the opportunity to integrate electronic resources from information networks around the world with the Library's other resources. Currently the Internet is an unregulated medium. While it offers access to a wealth of material that is personally, professionally, and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages, it also enables access to some material that may be inaccurate, offensive, disturbing, and/or illegal.

The Library has installed technology protection measures, commonly called "Internet filters," on all Internet workstations in an effort to block the availability of obscene and pornographic materials in the Library. These measures, although effective, may not always block what the Library intended.

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the Kenosha Public Library's online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, the prevention of inappropriate network usage includes (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors to online forms.

User Rights and Responsibilities

The Library cannot control or monitor the vast amount of material accessible from computers and networks via the Internet. Individual users must accept responsibility for sites visited and links followed. The user is responsible for verification of information found on the Internet. Library staff is available to provide assistance and to help identify appropriate sites. The user, however, is the selector when using the Internet, with individual choices and decisions.

The Library upholds and affirms the right of each individual to have access to constitutionally protected material. The Library also affirms the right and responsibility of parents/guardians to determine and monitor their children's use of Library materials and resources. KPL conforms to the rules for children's Internet access defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) enacted by Congress in 2000. Users under 18 years of age must use a workstation on which technology protection measures are active and are encouraged to use computers in the Youth Services area of the library. Parents are encouraged to work closely with their children in selecting material that is consistent with their personal and family values and boundaries. Parents may request to temporarily suspend computer filters when filtering interferes with research results.

Users 18 years of age or older may request to disable filters during their library workstation session. Patrons are reminded that using computers in a public place carries certain responsibilities. All library users must continue to abide by all laws restricting free speech, as well as KPL Rules of Conduct while using computers in a public space. These rules are posted at every library location.

Conditions and Terms of Use in the Library

- The Library reserves the right to regulate access to Internet sites based on bandwidth and network functionality in order to provide reasonable access to all users.
- Users printing material from the Internet will be charged on a per page basis.
- The Library has established procedures which make Internet stations available on a fair and equitable basis to all customers.
- The Library provides wireless Internet access. Patrons are responsible for configuring and protecting their own equipment. The Library's wireless network is an open public network and the Library is not responsible for any damages arising from its use.
- Patrons should respect the privacy of others who are using a computer or while using a computer themselves.
- The Library has in good faith installed security software on its public computers to prevent fraudulent activity on its network. No system is foolproof. The Library expects its customers to take measures to protect their personal confidential information. The Library does not take responsibility for any breach of personal information while using library computers.
- Failure to act in conformance with this policy may result in revocation of Internet use privileges.