Computer and Internet Use Policy

Purpose and Disclaimer

The Belleville Public Library offers access to electronic resources including LinkCat, the Internet, various software programs, and public use computers as part of its mission to provide services and materials in a variety of formats to meet the information, education, and recreational needs of our patrons. To assure the fairest possible use of library resources by all library patrons, the Library Board governs the in-library use practices for electronic resources.

The Library's wired and wireless networks are filtered to comply with provisions of the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

Responsibility of Users

Use of the Library's computers or Wi-Fi constitutes agreement to follow the Belleville Public Library Computer and Internet Use Policy.

Users search the Internet at their own risk realizing that some sites carry information that a user may find controversial, indecent, or inappropriate. Users should evaluate Internet sources as they do print materials, questioning the accuracy and completeness of the information. Library patrons are individually responsible for their own access, use, or dissemination of information via the Internet in the library. In the case of minors, it is a joint responsibility of the user and the parent or guardian. Because parents or guardians may feel that information available through the Internet is not suitable for viewing by children in their care, supervision is advised.

Users should be aware that they are working in a public environment shared by people of all ages and sensibilities. Computer users should refrain from the use of Internet sounds and visuals which might disrupt the ability of other patrons to use the library and its resources. Ear buds or headphones may be used with library computers.

The Library's wireless network is offered as an unsecured network. Library patrons should use wireless access accordingly.

Users access the library computer hardware, software, and documentation at their own risk. Belleville Public Library is not responsible for equipment malfunction, loss of data, any damages to the user's disks, data, or electronic transactions of any type which are related to the public use of library computer resources.

Using Library Workstations

- Users are encouraged to use their current South Central Library System (SCLS) library card to access the Internet. However, as a community resource, Belleville Public Library's computers and Wi-Fi are open to all who follow this policy. Guest passes for juveniles (under 18) and adults are available at the circulation desk.

- Internet use is limited to two 60 minute sessions per day per adult user. Juvenile users are limited to one 60 minute session. Users with special circumstances may request a longer period of time in advance.

- The library reserves the right to limit the use of the workstation to one hour when others are waiting.

- Library patrons are not permitted to download programs or software to the Library's computers. Library equipment may not be altered without permission from Library staff. Documents or other work must be saved to a flash drive.

- There is a per page charge for printing, payable at the circulation desk. There is no charge for use of the scanner.

Supervising Use by Children and Teens

Children under age 8 must use the Internet with their accompanying adult.

Children and teens use of the Internet is not supervised by library staff. Parents or guardians are responsible for minor children's use of Library computers and the Internet.

In compliance with the requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), Belleville Public Library filters all Internet access provided by the Library. Adult patrons age 17 and older may choose to disable the filter for unrestricted access for any lawful purpose that meets Belleville Public Library's policies and guidelines.

The Library supports the right for each family to decide what is appropriate Internet use for their children and teens. Use of the Internet presents an opportunity for each family to discuss sites and content they feel is appropriate or inappropriate.

Parents, guardians, and caregivers are expected to instruct minors to safely share personal information (name, address, password, telephone number, school, credit card number, etc.) on the Internet. This includes but is not limited to email, instant messaging, chat rooms, online purchases, social media sites, and commercial sites. Before giving out any personal information via email, minors need to be confident that they are dealing with someone who is known and trusted by them and their parents or guardians.

For more information on children, teens, and the Internet, see content on www.ConnectSafely.org .

Unacceptable Internet Use

Use of the Library's computers and Internet access must be legal. Illegal or unacceptable uses on library-owned computers and patron-owned devices include, but are not limited to the following:

- Displaying pornographic or sexually explicit content.

- Transmitting threatening or harassing materials.

- Libeling, slandering or maliciously offending other users.

- Harassment of others or violating other users' privacy.

- Violating copyright laws or software licensing agreements.

- Exposing children to harmful materials: This policy presumes that children are always present in all areas of the Library. Sec. 948.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes, among other things, makes it a crime to expose children to pictures or images of nudity, sexually explicit conduct, or physical torture or brutality that appeal to the prurient, shameful or morbid interests of children, are patently offensive to prevailing adult standards regarding materials suitable for children, or lack serious literary, artistic, political, scientific or educational value for children.

- Obstructing other people's work by overuse of system resources, such as bandwidth.

- Hacking or attempting to crash, degrade performance of, or gain unauthorized access to Library or other computer systems and networks.

- Gaining access to or damaging data, equipment, or software belonging to others or Belleville Public Library.

- Using another patron's library card or misrepresenting oneself as another user.

- Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of others' personal information.

Consequences of Policy Violations

Users of both library-owned computers and patron-owned devices will be warned if library staff observes unacceptable use. Continued misuse or repeated instances of misuse will result in loss of Internet or library privileges.

Staff reserves the right to intervene and end a computer session if they judge that equipment is being misused or other provisions of this policy are being violated.

If an individual or group of Internet users creates a disturbance that limits the effective use of the Library by others, they will be asked to correct their behavior, disband, and/or leave the building as appropriate.

Illegal uses of computers may also be subject to prosecution by local, state or federal authorities.

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