

INTERNET ACCESS AND USE GUIDELINES

Service Philosophy

Internet access is provided at Grand Valley Public Library in keeping with the Library's mission to be : A Citizen's Door to Lifelong Learning". The Library considers Internet resources as an extension of our material collections for library users. The Internet is one of the richest information resources available to our customers.

Internet Access Policy

While recognizing that the Internet provides access to a vast array of tools and resources for different age levels and points of view, Grand Valley Public Library does not act in place of or in absence of a parent and is not responsible for enforcing any restrictions which a parent or guardian may place on a minor's use of this resource.

-Approved by the Grand Valley Public Library Board 2008.

Library Responsibilities

The Library and its staff will :

- Use reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with Internet use guidelines and procedures.
- Make users aware of our Internet access and use policies and guidelines through signage and brochures.
- Take reasonable measures to ensure the privacy and confidentiality of Internet users.
- Make all workstations available to all members of the public regardless of age.
- Provide staff assistance to library Internet users whenever time and knowledge permits.
- Develop web pages and brochures to assist users in navigating the Internet.
- Offer introductory training sessions to the Internet for a fee as resources permit.
- Inspect and report suspected illegal sites.

Given the nature of the Internet :

- The library assumes responsibility only for the information provided on its web pages.
- The library cannot control the availability of information links that often change rapidly.
- Grand Valley Public Library assumes no responsibility for any direct or indirect damages arising from the use of its connection to the Internet services.

Customer Responsibilities

All users of the Internet are expected to use this resource in a responsible manner and comply with these Internet access and user guidelines:

- Not all Internet sources provide accurate, complete, age appropriate or current information. It is the user's responsibility to question the validity of any information.
- All members of the public, regardless of age may use any of the public workstations.
- Parents or guardians are responsible for monitoring their children's Internet activity and choice of workstation. Filtering software does not replace the need for parental guidance. Children 12 to 15 require a parent/guardian signature to use the internet workstation unsupervised. Children 11 and under must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.
- Be aware that the workstations are in public areas shared by people of all ages and sensibilities. Each user is ultimately responsible for the selection of sites and should be aware that other library users may be involuntarily exposed to what is displayed.
- Respect the privacy of others using public access workstations.
- Use is limited to thirty minutes if others are waiting to use an Internet Workstation.
- Unless participating in a library tutorial, no more than two people are permitted at an Internet workstation at one time.
- Where permitted by copyright, users may print their information at the posted rate.
- At the end of Internet sessions users should log off.

The following activities are prohibited :

- Use of workstations for illegal, actionable or criminal purposes or to seek access to unauthorized areas. (pornography, hate literature, etc.)
- Use of workstations for sending, receiving, displaying text/graphics which are illegal or may reasonably be construed as obscene or offensive.
- Infringement of copyright and other intellectual property rights.
- Subverting or attempting to subvert any security devices in either software or hardware format which the library has installed on its Internet workstations.
- Installing or attempting to install viruses or other programs designed to damage or alter software on the workstations, the local area network or the Internet, or seeking unauthorized access to any computer system.
- Sending unsolicited commercial material or spamming.
- Misrepresenting oneself as another user.
- Attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords or data belonging to others.
- Vandalism or theft of library property.

Consequences of Violating Internet Access and Use Guidelines

Users in violation of the library's Internet access and use guidelines will have their Internet privileges revoked. Repeated violations will result in removal from the library.

Misuse or abuse of computers or programs is not acceptable. Offenders will be required to leave the library.

Customers using the library's Internet workstations for illegal purposes will be subject to prosecution. Vandalism or theft of library property is illegal and will be reported to the police.