

Internet Access and Use Policy

Policy Statement

Internet access and the provision for public computing at the Rochester Hills Public Library (RHPL) are an extension of the library's commitment to meeting the community's information needs.

Regulations

1. Internet access, computing resources and online resources accessible through the library are provided to all library customers in good standing regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, disability, language proficiency, or social or economic status.
2. The library neither monitors nor controls Internet information and cannot be held responsible for its content, quality, accuracy or currency. The Internet is a worldwide community with a highly diverse user population, and its use is at the customer's discretion.
3. Internet access is free to all customers with a valid RHPL card in good standing. Customers who are not eligible for a RHPL library card may request a guest card that is valid for one day. Customers will need to log into the computer with their library card number and PIN/password.
4. Workstations are available on a first come, first served basis. Library cardholders are granted a one-hour session for computer use. Additional time may be available if no other customers are waiting. Guest pass users are granted a thirty-minute session for computer use. Additional time may be available if no other customers are waiting.
5. The library offers the capability to print from its computers. The library charges for the use of its printers.
6. Librarians have developed a variety of web pages with recommended links in order to facilitate public use of the Internet. Customers should recognize, however, that the library is not responsible for changes to the content of linked sites, nor for the content of sources accessed through subsequent links. See *Web Services* policy.
7. Staff will provide assistance to Internet customers to the extent that time and customer demands allow. See *Information Services* policy.
8. The workstations must be used in a responsible manner, respecting the rights of others and taking care with the use of the equipment. Changing workstation and/or Internet settings is prohibited. Unauthorized use of others' passwords or identity is prohibited.

Internet Access and Use Policy

9. The workstations cannot be used for any fraudulent or unlawful purpose, including activities prohibited under any applicable federal, Michigan or local laws.
10. Customers should be aware that material on the Internet and the World Wide Web is copyrighted. It is the customer's responsibility to be aware of the display of any notices concerning the copyright of information on the Internet, and to respect the federal copyright laws.
11. While respecting intellectual freedom and customers' First Amendment rights, the library is committed to providing an environment free from sexual and other forms of harassment and hate. As defined by federal and state law, users shall not access, send, receive or print materials that can be classified as child pornography¹. Minors may not access, send, receive, print, or be exposed to materials that can be classified as obscene² or harmful to minors³. Since staff cannot consistently and effectively monitor the public's use of the Internet, customers are asked to be sensitive of others' values and beliefs. Users have a right to privacy without the close scrutiny of library staff or other customers, but should use machines in less visible areas when accessing potentially controversial information and images.
12. Recognizing that graphic images on computer screens may be seen easily by passersby of all ages, the library has designated that all computers in open areas shall be minimally filtered for sexual content. The Quiet Computer Room on the 2nd floor shall provide unfiltered access and shall only be used by customers age 18 and above.
13. The library has implemented public access management software to manage the daily access for Internet customers including the provision of low filtering for minors in compliance with state law.⁴ The Internet, even on the library's filtered workstations, may contain information that is controversial, sexually explicit or offensive to some users. Parents or guardians, not the library or its staff, are ultimately responsible for monitoring their children's access to Internet information.
14. Staff is authorized to terminate any customer's session if the customer has failed to comply with the library's *Internet Access and Use* policy. The library director may impose longer or permanent restrictions for violations of the library's policies. Internet customers whose session has been terminated or whose access

¹ U.S. Code, Title 18, §§ 2256 (1) and (8)

² Michigan Obscene Material Act, P.A. 343 of 1984

³ Michigan Harmful to Minors Act, P.A. 33 of 1978

⁴ MCL 397.606 *et seq.* Library Privacy Act

Internet Access and Use Policy

to the library has been prohibited may request the decision be reviewed by the board of trustees. See *Code of Conduct* policy.

15. Internet access may be unavailable at times due to technical difficulties.

Approved: January 12, 2009

Rochester Hills Public Library Board of Trustees